

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Oberland Trade Report.

VOL. LX.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	2 7
Leading Articles:—	
Masonry and Catholicism	218
The Hongkong Budget	218
Bad Japanese Judges	219
A Lost Prestige	219
Our Trade with Japan, Local and Imperial	220
Frontier Trades of Corea	221
Hongkong Jottings	221
Hongkong Legislative Council	222
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	223
Hongkong Sanitary Board	223
Supreme Court	224
Marine Court	225
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.	225
The Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.	225
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.	226
The Hongkong Steam Water-boat Co., Ltd.	226
Frontier Notes	227
Correspondence	227
British-Tibetan Treaty	227
Impression of North Formosa	228
Rice Trade at Macao	228
Death of an American Admiral	228
An Erring Guide	228
Police Recreation Club	228
H.K.C.C. Annual Meeting	229
Craigengower C.C. Annual Meeting	230
Imports into the Philippines	230
Hongkong Rifle Association	231
Kowloon Bowling Green Club	231
V.R.C. Aquatic Sports	231
China Trade	231
Hongkong	232
Miscellaneous	232
Commercial	233
Shipping	236

BIRTH.

At "The Neuk," Peak, on the 19th inst., the wife of Captain P. G. DAVIES, A.O.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 14th September, at H. M. Consulate, Swatow, China, and afterwards at Kakehio Church, by the Rev. W. F. KNOX, ROBERT ALEXANDER CURRIE, eldest son of the late R. G. CURRIE, I.C.S., to ELEANOR MARY, third daughter of T. W. RICHARDSON, of Swatow, China, and 27, Roland Gardens, London, S.W.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 19th August arrived, per the s.s. *Salasie*, on the 20th inst.; and the English Mail of the 26th August arrived, per the s.s. *Malta*, on the 23rd inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The rifles of the Russian gunboat *Mandjour* at Shanghai have been restored for the purpose of being cleaned.

Major-General Corbin relieves Major-General Wade in the military command in the Philippines on the 18th October.

Owing to a reduction in the Government appropriation for Education in the Philippines the services of nearly 200 American teachers in the islands will shortly be terminated.

H.M. cruiser *Tribune* has annexed Aves Island, and has hoisted the British flag there. Aves Island is a small barren islet in the east of the Caribbean Sea, 140 miles west of Dominica.

The Commander-in-Chief of the German Asiatic Fleet is offering ten thousand marks to anyone discovering the missing attaché, Lieut. Gilgenheim, who left Port Arthur in a junk.

It was reported in Shanghai mandarin circles on the 13th instant that the British Minister in Peking has suggested to the Waiwupu that China being too weak to protect Weihaiwei, she should ask the Japanese to do so for her.

In Hongkong, the "area sneak" has been favouring umbrellas of late. At Shanghai, according to the *Mercury*, there seems to be a mania for foreign hats among the lower class of natives. Pilfering is practised in divers ways, but hardly in a more annoying form than in the annexing of one's hat from the stand in the hall.

Some articles, says a Manila contemporary with an evident sigh of relief, are to be admitted to the Philippines free of duty after all. Scientific apparatus and books, and other merchandise imported for Government use, when the local market cannot supply the want, are now to come in free. The Commission has passed an Act to that effect.

In consequence of their dissatisfaction with the local Japanese headman, five thousand rioters at Sikeunr, Kyongkeni province, on the line of the Seoul-Fusan railway, a few miles south of the Han river, killed him and his son and wounded four other Japanese. Japanese gendarmes have proceeded to the scene, and it is expected that the riot will soon be quelled.

The Chinese Government has decided to govern Manchuria herself, and is negotiating with the Japanese authorities on the matter. Japan has informed China that if China wished to keep Manchuria it is necessary to have at least four divisions of a well-trained army, and if China cannot provide this a Japanese army may garrison Manchuria, the expenses being paid by China. The Chinese Government has ordered Liang Pi of Lienpingchu, attached to H.E. Tieh Liang, to return to Peking from Shanghai in this connection.—*Universal Gazette*.

In Kiukiang French marines made a small row, which might have led to disagreeable consequences. A party from the *Montcalm* went on shore on the 6th instant and took to using their knives, so that two natives had to be taken to the hospital for treatment. If it had been foreigners who had been thus handled, it would have been considered a terrible outrage; being Chinese, it was but a small matter, to be settled forty by or fifty dollars. It is said that this sort of thing happens frequently, when a French man-of-war is in port, and makes the foreign residents hail the sight of the Tricolor with some misgivings. Indeed it is said that the sisters at the hospital prepare an extra supply of bandages when a French ship is there!

Recently a mysterious murder took place in a house in Queen's Road Central, Hongkong. A man applied for a burial warrant for the dead body of a male, but the official called in appears to have thought there was something suspicious about the dead man, and he ordered the body to be removed to the mortuary. There it was found that the man had been stabbed twice in the groin with a pair of scissors (this occurred in a tailor's shop) and the wounds filled up with tobacco. All traces of blood had been washed away. Further particulars are unobtainable, as the Police decline to tell anything concerning the affair.

A San Francisco telegram to the Manila *Cablenews* announces that as a result of the investigation made by Mr. Herbert H. D. Pierce, third assistant Secretary of State, in regard to the many charges of official misconduct made against Mr. Robert McWade, the U. S. Consul-General at Canton, President Roosevelt has removed Mr. McWade from office. A strong effort was made by friends in his behalf, but without effect. The telegram adds that the removal has met with general approval throughout the country. It is stated that as a result of the representations made by Mr. Pierce other changes in the Consular service in the Far East are likely to follow.

A *Sin-wan-po* despatch dated the 11th instant says: A Peking letter says that the Waiwupu has inquired of the British Minister whether Weihaiwei will be handed back by the British authorities to the Chinese according to the terms of the agreement when the Russians evacuate Manchuria, and asked the Minister to wire his home Government regarding the matter. The Peking Government had also wired to Chang Teh-yih, Chinese Minister at London, on the same subject. Minister Chang wired back to the effect that the British Government will in no case violate the terms of the agreement, but will claim certain consideration in exchange for the return of Weihaiwei.

Hunghutze are under a certain young General, a very handsome, gentlemanly, mild-mannered Chinese, a splendid horseman and a first-class shot, in fact an ideal guerilla chief. The Hunghutze get regular pay—from the Japanese, it is currently reported—footmen \$15 a month, and horsemen \$25, and they have to find their own mounts and ammunition. They are divided into bands of 200 or 300, each with seven or eight Japanese officers disguised as Chinese. In horsemanship and marksmanship they are fully a match for the Cossacks, and they are better led than the latter. They are very careful to do no harm to the natives or to any foreigners except the Russians, but they harass the Russian railway guards and communications, and small bodies of Russians, terribly, for they are perfect guerillas, obeying implicitly the orders of their General, to whom the Chinese found it wise some time before the war to give high official rank. As an instance of the way the Hunghutze operate, it may be mentioned that the other day the Russians got hold of five of them, and cut off their heads, which they stuck up on poles as a warning. A band of Hunghutze watched their chance until they got wind of a detachment of twenty-six Cossacks who were driving about a thousand head of cattle for the Russian Commissariat. They attacked them, killed them all, secured their arms, horses, and the cattle, and returned with five of the Cossacks' heads on their own lances a case of tit for tat.—*Id.*

MASONRY AND CATHOLICISM.

(Daily Press, 19th September.)

The ascription to "Continental Masonry" of responsibility for the present rupture of the relations of France and the Vatican seems to us unwarranted. France, the hotbed of ideas and ideals, is ever ready to sacrifice its own peace and harmony for the sake of either; and France is at present imbued with the idea that it is priest-ridden. We need not enter into the various causes of this belief, since we purpose dealing more usefully, we hope, with the side issue raised by a northern contemporary which had ascribed a Freemason origin to the recent actions of M. Combes and his confrères. Whether it is that the staff of our contemporary includes a new, and so enthusiastic, recruit of one of Shanghai's numerous Lodges, or whether it was sheer temerity that prompted the *N.-C. Daily News* to rush into an editorial defence of Freemasonry, we do not know. Denying with *The X Rays in Freemasonry*, by A. COWAN, our contemporary endorses the suggestion (first made by the author) by quoting Papal attacks on Masonry to show that the Masons are justified in "hitting back." In defending Masons, our contemporary has offended Roman Catholics, by such comments as this: "Freedom, liberty of worship and of thought, truth, and, above all, light: these are the teachings which Rome abhors unless they are tinged with the colours which she so skilfully infuses into them. It was for seeking truth in his own way that the Mason was damned." The immediate result was a long letter accusing our contemporary of quoting "in a garbled manner," and hurling something like a thousand denunciatory words at the Society which claims so many Lodges and members in the Far East. Before more acrimony is imported into this unfortunate moot-case, we would fain acquire some of the merit that falls to the peacemaker. Here is a passage which extorted the ire of our contemporary: "Truth does not exist in Masonry or in any of those who fill the highest grades in the order. In the sect itself, lying, deceit, and perfidy are the sovereign rulers; and these pretended virtues are simply put forward as a mask to blind men of honour and good faith and to induce them to join a body of persons whose principles they would abhor if they knew what they really were. In truth I hereby declare that Freemasonry is an institution the scope of which is to undermine and destroy every form of religion, and especially the Catholic faith, and to try and substitute thereto a diabolic worship and the restoration of humanity to primitive paganism." In reproof whereof, and commenting that it seems to be "stretching the amenities of debate rather too much," our contemporary probably thought to reduce the tension by attributing to the Pope and his Church an antipathy to "truth, and, above all, light." If our duty as peacemaker could be done by showing the faults of both sides, it were easily done. We could suggest that the Masonic respect for Light is scarcely consistent with hiding it under the expensive bushel of a secret society, making it inaccessible to the majority of mankind; and we could narrate an anecdote illustrative of masonic piety. To a would-be recruit was put the question: "In times of difficulty and danger, in Whom do you put your trust?" The candidate replied: "In A—B—," giving his own name. "Oh! But you must reply 'In God,'" was the answer. "Is it essential that I should profess such a belief?" To which the good P.G.M. replied, emphatically but profanely, "By—it is." But what do such

incidents prove? Nothing more, surely than can be proved by citing equally true cases of wicked priests, and the Church's sometime questionable methods of suppressing doubt? It is more fitting that we should look for the good points of both, which both undoubtedly possess. The Church's detestation of Masonry, we believe, rests mainly on its threatment of the Confessional, a means of grace that has all along been one of the Church's strongest weapons. Protestants detest the idea of the Confessional, its abuses having impressed them more than its uses. They detest, also, the Papal discouragement of freedom of thought, unwitting that that policy, and that alone, has preserved intact the fundamentals of the Church for so many ages, and saved her from many of the scandalous bickerings and internal dissensions so conspicuous and consistent in the other forms of the Christian Church. As for Masonry, its rituals are pure and beautiful, and its ideals as altruistic and holy as any the Orthodox can claim; and if the majority of Masons come short in practice of the glory thereof, their professions, at any rate, have gone to show good intentions. In the discrepancies of practice and precept, neither the Masonic Pot nor the Ecclesiastical Kettle, may call the other black. The facts have to come from "babes and sucklings" after all; and these have said that "faith is believing what you know ain't so," and "the ideal is the antithesis of the real." A small boy of our acquaintance, aged about eight, astonished his mother not long ago by breaking silence after a lengthy spell of meditation, with the remark: "Mamma! I have decided that there must be good and bad in all things." After which dictum, we think the hatchet ought to be buried at Shanghai.

THE HONGKONG BUDGET.

(Daily Press, 19th September.)

In his first address to the Legislative Council upon his appointment to the Governorship of Hongkong in 1899 Sir HENRY BLAKE said:—"The most pressing public work at the present moment is the building of the New Law Courts, which blocks the way for the improvement of the Post Office, a building entirely insufficient and unsuited for the postal requirements of the Colony." At the end of Sir HENRY BLAKE's term of office the building of the New Law Courts was still "a most pressing public work." His Excellency, however, just before he left the Colony, had the satisfaction of laying the foundation stone of the building as well as of seeing the excavation work begun on a site for a new Post Office. For the delay in the execution of these works, red-tape entanglements were more responsible than inadequacy of funds, though five years ago the estimates had to be framed with "a rigid regard for economy." Such a programme of public works as figures in the Estimates presented to the Council last Thursday would have been impossible five years ago. Sir MATTHEW NATMAN has the advantage of finding the revenue larger than it has ever been before, enabling long-needed public works to be taken up and actively carried out. His Excellency notes that the Government is committed to large expenditures, notably on waterworks and sanitary improvements, and that the list of public buildings in course of erection include besides the Law Courts and Post Office, a New Harbour Office, a Bacteriological Laboratory, and a market in the Western district. His Excellency pointed out in his address to the Council that the estimated expenditure on public works for 1905

represented 34 per cent. of the revenue. When Sir HENRY BLAKE began his reign there was a strong feeling in the Colony that more money should be devoted by the Government to Public Works Extraordinary, but it was pleaded to be impossible out of the revenue, a view which secured the endorsement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is worth pointing out that in 1899 the expenditure of the Public Works Department represented 19 per cent. of the colonial revenue. The revenue has since increased more than 100 per cent., and about one-half the amount of that increase is given over to public works. The expenditure of the Public Works Department was represented in 1900 by the sum of \$630,000; in the Estimates for 1905, the Department asks for appropriations amounting to \$2,459,300.

The Colonial Estimates indicate the revenue to be steadily progressive. The actual revenue for 1903 was \$5,238,857; the revised estimate for the current year is \$6,763,391; while the estimate for 1905 is \$7,198,611. We find the most notable increase to be in respect of the Opium Monopoly. From this source in 1903 a revenue of only \$750,000 was derived by the Government, while in the estimates for 1905 the amount expected from this source is set down as \$2,220,000, which is \$245,000 more than the revised estimate for the current year. In respect of assessed taxes an increase of nearly \$100,000 is expected compared with the revised estimate for this year. Another satisfactory feature in the revenue account is the growth in the land revenue from the New Territories. In 1903 this item amounted to \$22,127; this year double the amount is expected, and next year it is estimated to produce \$75,000. In view of the public attention directed to the tree-felling which the Government endeavoured to justify at the meeting of the Council on Thursday it may be noted that the revenue expected from the sale of timber this year (the first year this item has figured in the estimates) is \$25,000, and next year \$36,700, which indicates that this vandalism is to proceed to an extent altogether unsuspected by the public.

It must be a source of great satisfaction to the community to observe that a large proportion of this increased revenue is being devoted to carrying out long-delayed though urgently needed public works. In the current year the sum appropriated for public works is about 34 per cent. of the estimated revenue, and the same proportion the Governor has pointed out is asked for in the estimates for 1905, though the actual amount is nearly half a million dollars more than is estimated to be spent this year. His Excellency spoke of the Budget as practically a Public Works Estimate, and that is precisely the kind of Budget the community desire to see. While the revenue is maintained at its present level there is no apparent reason why the percentage spent on public works should be lower than it is. Much, very much, requires to be done in Hongkong in the way of public improvements, and the sooner it is done the better, alike in the interests of the health and convenience of the present inhabitants and the future progress and prosperity of the Colony.

Under the auspices of the Hongkong Branch of the Sanitary Institute, a course of about 40 lectures will be commenced early next month. These lectures are intended for students proposing to attend one or other of the three Institute examinations in practical sanitary science sanitation, so far as required for an inspector of nuisances; and inspection of meat and other foods, so far as required by a meat inspector or inspector of markets.

BAD JAPANESE JUDGES.

(Daily Press, 20th September.)

Foreign traders with Japan, both inside and outside the country, have constantly inveighed against the commercial dishonesty of the Japanese. Nipponophil visitors, meeting the denunciations, as they frequently did, with indignant disclaimers, were answered with citation after citation of breaches of contract, and of sharp practices indulged in with effrontery. The enthusiastic admirers of Japan and the Japanese, finding the ground of their incredulity ruthlessly removed from under them, were glad to see in Japanese history an excuse for what they were bound to regard as a regrettable state of things. The Japanese of an earlier generation was brought up with a soul above dollars. The filth of lucre was no mere figure of speech. *Bushido* included the snobbish sentiment that a Japanese gentleman should touch no metals but those of which his weapons were made. Ergo, the Japanese who did handle money were no gentlemen. From these low-class people the present commercial folk were descended. Thus heredity was responsible for the modern commercial dishonesty of Japan. Of course it does not hold water, that reasoning, but we have seen it seriously advanced. The chief thing, however, is that the consensus of foreign opinion is and has been against the business integrity of the Japanese. To a cautious and reasonable mind, not involved in trade, knowing other nations, and that "it takes all sorts to make a nation," the allegation seemed too sweeping to be just. Yet if Japan, by the Japanese is to be believed, the indictment is true enough. It is a book officially intended to make the world see Japan as Japan sees itself, having just been simultaneously published, by authority, in Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Norway and Sweden. Baron SHIBUSAWA therein admits a low standard of commercial morality. "Laws may be improved; but the barrier of a bad morality is by far stronger than that of bad laws." Count OKUMA, in another chapter, and on a different subject, speaks of the lack of a moral standard. These, and other passages, almost induce the suspicion that the exaggerated politeness of the Oriental, taking shape as it notoriously does in silly self-depreciation, has led the writers into efforts to see themselves as some of the Westerns see them. But the various authors of the book are all men of affairs: high authorities on their respective themes: we are obliged to accept their representations. The question then arises whether the right remedy has been detected. Of course the missionaries know what should be done. "Tis religion, and religion only, can supply the cure. Baron KENTARO KANEKO, however, has the bad taste to think that their particular brand of panacea "is not what Jesus of Nazareth taught, but a mongrel system, a concoction of a little of obsolete Judaism, of Egyptian asceticism, of Greek sublimity, of Roman arrogance, of Teutonic superstitions, and in fact of anything sanctioning the wholesale slaughter of weaker races, or now and then the lopping of crowned heads." As for the old gods, the Japanese, full as they are of badly digested KANT, and SPENCER, and other philosophers, have grown a little ashamed of them. They must have been sufficiently unbalanced before by the necessity of choosing between the Buddhist missionaries and their own priests, and the fairly respectable compromise they managed was shattered by the multiplicity of creeds that buzzed in upon them when the country was

thrown open. It needed only a little observation of the conduct of the strangers within their gates, and a few translations of the works of advanced thinkers from without, to throw them into their present state of unfaith in all that is not material, political, and utilitarian. In spite of that, however, it is not correct to say that there is no generally accepted standard of ethics. Of ethics in Japan there is enough and to spare, and we are inclined to the opinion that Japan is not in any immediate need of conversion in this respect. Nay, we are bold enough to believe that Japan has the capacity and the will for putting precept into practice, in a measure perhaps beyond the ken of some other nations. Her laws as coded are in themselves a wholly sufficient system of ethics, and we have previously recorded our opinion that the Japanese are essentially law-abiding people, carrying patriotism (not Jingoism) to the point of religious fervour. What more is required? Why, in face of that, should their standard of commercial morality be lower than that of other nations? We hope to be forgiven if we, following up the suggestion of HERBERT SPENCER himself, venture to express a doubt as to its being really so. Has SPENCER not, in the collection of essays published not long prior to his death, shown that all men are rogues, and proved it by the laws they make themselves as safeguards one against another? The carefully drawn-up contracts between master and man, buyer and seller, are they not presumptive evidence that "the party of the one part" and "the party of the other part" regard each other as unworthy of trust? So our English, American, German, French, and other "standards of commercial morality" amount to a belief that every man will cheat if he can, and that he must be bound under specifically defined penalties to be honest, and carry out his obligations. As we have said, the Japanese have an admirable set of laws, eclectically obtained from the evolved product of the best European jurisprudence; and the penalties that should protect those doing business under Japanese jurisdiction are not wanting. The answer must be sought from those who administer the laws, and here, we think, the finger is laid upon the secret of Japan's shortcoming. Her judges are bad, notoriously bad! We do not allege dishonesty so much as gross incapability. With very rare exceptions, the Japanese judge is unfit for his place. We have been told, and have seen sufficient to make us believe, that a really capable man of law prefers to wear the cap of the advocate to that of the judge. The judicial salaries paid in Japan are absurd. The result is that callow youths, drawing salaries on a par with those of some of the clerk or *banto* witnesses, sit to deliberate and decide cases involving amounts it would take them years to earn. The Japanese have a reputation for their attention to detail. In the case of the Japanese SOLOMON, it is generally irrelevant detail upon which he focuses his observation. The result is that "the law's delay" is in Japan observable in *excellent*, and the verdict in the end scarcely worth waiting for, except as something to laugh at (supposing you be not a party to the suit). There is no need to mention instances, but we may quote one recent ruling. A petty tinker of some kind, in front of whose tiny workshop an electric supply wire closely passed, had the brilliant inspiration to connect it with one of his tools. Promptly sued by the electric supply company, he was given a verdict on the ground that electricity is not a marketable commodity, and so could not be dishonestly appropriated! That is history, and recent history.

The solution we have suggested is so simple, that it will probably not be accepted as an adequate remedy for the evil complained of. Great events, however, have often sprung from little causes; and we are convinced that the bad business reputation of the Japanese is co-existent with the bad personnel of the Japanese Bench, and that the improvement of one will see the disappearance of the other.

A LOST PRESTIGE.

(Daily Press, 21st September.)

Russia could not conceivably have cut a sorer figure than she has done in the present war with Japan, if she had surrendered at discretion in its earliest stages. She has not lost the battle yet, as experts account things; but to all intents and purposes she has lost more than even a long sequence of victories could possibly restore. She has utterly lost prestige; and since much blood and money is not counted too dear a price to pay for that hardly defined asset, and she has paid the price for nothing, it is evident that Russia is left, like the person in OTHELLO—poor indeed, with war chest dispenised and good name gone. When we look back over the last seven short but eventful months, and recall the thoughts of the first two months of the year, it is a little difficult to assure ourselves that what has happened, has happened. Much of the anxiety, and lingering hope that war might be averted, was occasioned by sympathy for and admiration of Japan. At the most, and with great luck, Japan was to hold the Russian giant in check until a decent excuse could be found for intervention. Russian opinion, as we now know, was that Japan would not have the presumption to fight one of the world's greatest military powers. Then, while we were still talking pros and cons, and trembling for the future of foolhardy Japan, events began to tread on the heels of events, until, lost in the whirl of them, our ideas were all inverted willy-nilly, without conscious volition on our parts. Japan had struck a shrewd first blow, and gained the moral effects of it. Russia—mighty Russia—amazed us by crying out that "she wasn't looking" and that Japan was treacherous and cowardly. It was as disconcerting to the onlookers as the seeing of a strong man weep. The world smiled at Japan's temerity, and thought that the bantam would yet have its comb pierced. On the water, however, there was no sign of a reversal of things. Russian prestige began to wane, as Russian officials began to lie. Undoubtedly they lied, and when subsequent events verified Japanese versions, the world blushed again for the strong man weeping. "He bleeds, he bleeds, and denies the wound, covering it with a maid's kerchief." Still, the land fighting was to follow. Our estimate of Russia could not be quite erroneous. Surely here she must vindicate herself? As if in answer to our spoken thought, Russia herself explained that these previous incidents were not to count. They were trifles. Presently she would exact a terrible reparation. Then came the affair of the Yalu, costing us, for some hours, our faith in the newspapers. It was, we thought, impossible that the Russians could have retired so soon from such strong positions, which they had had ample time to prepare, while Japan had not reached the river without difficulties rivalling those experienced by Britain in the earlier stages of the Boer war. Russia's excuse, when the truth of the reports could no longer be denied, was that the occupation of that position was quite a mistake. A small boy

creeping through a gap in an orchard fence was met by the irate owner. "Where are you going, boy?" he thundered. "Back again, sir," said the boy, and retired. Russia followed the pilfering boy's example. She did more. She had the ridiculous effrontery to brag about it, saying that it was part of a scheme—that of "luring 'em on." Russia lured the Japanese on, by easy stages, to Tashichiao, where she seemed to change her mind. But the bait seemed alluring indeed to the follower. That strategic position, strongly fortified as it was, was taken, and so were many others, all prepared beforehand by Russia as strong bases to advance from, not to flee from. As the world grew accustomed to the real condition of affairs, amazement gave place to amused contempt. It became evident that Russia was "getting her licks" and knew it. Otherwise, why all the telegrams, and despatches, and mendacious stories that were, in many cases, so clumsily devised that their falsity bulged out all over them? Their object, of course, was the conservation, in face of all that is fatal to it, of prestige. Their result, equally of course, was to sink that prestige further into the mire. These things have been more than ever apparent since the great battle of Liaoyang. At that place, thousands of Russians had been employed for months, making it strong enough to serve as Russia's "last ditch." It had been well prepared. The Japanese say so. It was well defended. The Japanese admit it. Except for the one unpleasant fact that they were badly defeated, the Russians had nothing to be ashamed of in the historical battle of Liao. Why should they tarnish the credit of their own heroes who defended it by the puerile fibbing that we have since observed? By these hopeless attempts to persuade us that the evacuation of such a premier stronghold was in reality a victory, by their despicable belittlement of the Japanese achievement, they have alienated the sympathy that was their due, and that we wished to feel and bestow. Contrast the attitude of their enemy. True, in Japan many flags and huzzas signalled the undoubted victory, and small wonder; but the Japanese authorities, the Mikado himself, counselled less exuberance. They were not yet out of the wood. Now, whatever happens, nothing can alter the shocking fact that Russia has been down, and while down, has grovelled. It is a different thing altogether to that doggedness which will not admit it is beaten. It is the weakness of the pugilist prone upon the sawdust, who, seeing the umpire about to give the decision, cries out, without getting up, protesting that he is not yet worsted. Russia would almost have us believe that she has not been hit, even as we gaze at the slobber of gore upon her mendacious mouth. It is a spectacle to make the gods weep. The other combatant, sorely wounded too, but game, stands dignified and alert in the ring, waiting for the call of "time." And we, too, await that call, for we are sick of the sight of blood, and would fain see the mob disperse, and the mess cleared away.

From Ningpo news comes that permission has been obtained from the Taotai at that place for the installation of a large electric lighting plant which will supply 4,000 lights. A company has been floated and half the capital of 100,000 taels is represented by the International Commercial Co. and the other half by Chinese. The building is already in course of erection, and the machinery, which is of the latest pattern, and furnished by the New York Import and Export Company, is on the way out. The whole work, it is expected, will be completed in about four months.

OUR TRADE WITH JAPAN, LOCAL AND IMPERIAL.

(Daily Press, 22nd September.)

Few things are more remarkable than the different aspects in which the course of trade in the Far East presents itself to different minds according to whether the point of view is taken from a commercial or merely trader's stand. More especially is this the case with regard to Japan. Nothing is more common than to hear that the trade of Japan is, as far at least as British interests are concerned, "ruined"; nothing to the student of statistics seems clearer than that trade is continually on the increase. Both are probably true, and the explanation is to be sought in the difference of the point of view adopted by each. Seen from the position of the local trader it is quite true that the trade of to-day is by no means so profitable as in the good old times, when a very large share was centred in the hands of British merchants on the spot; and probably fewer actual residents can now find a profitable living in the seaports; but in the view which presents itself to the British producer as most natural—and more especially to the British shipowner—the trade has been eminently satisfactory. So far the case would seem to be readily understandable, yet the reviewer who would go deeper into the matter would discover things which are hardly reconcilable with either. In 1893 the value of imports from Great Britain, which had been steadily rising from year to year, stood at 28 million yen; in 1897-98 it had grown at a bound to an average for the two years of 64 millions; in the next four years it had declined to less than 49 millions. Such extraordinary fluctuations surely denoted some unwonted disturbance. The causes of this had been long at work. When Japan was first opened to foreign intercourse a large amount of gold was in circulation, and gold was valued, weight for weight, at under twelve to one. As elsewhere, the ratio even then stood at about twenty to one, and silver was continually falling in the markets of the world; the natural consequence was a continual drain of the more valuable metal. The result was practically national bankruptcy; which was staved off for the time by enormous issues of paper money. At last notes became a drug on the market, and fell to a discount of some sixty per cent. With the perseverance characteristic of the nation, the statesmen of the day threw themselves into the task of restoring the credit of their country. They knew little of international finance, and made many blunders; but they persevered, and gradually affairs began to mend. Then a few saw that without a gold currency the country could not stand alongside Europe, and, cost what it might, they determined to alter the entire system. In 1897, after the successful issue of the war with China, but against a strong opposition, the Currency Bill was passed. It had been foreseen that a large import of gold was necessary, so the Government contracted a large loan, and we find some seventy million yen in gold imported. The change in the currency was effected; but an unexpected result followed; the old silver coinage called in was partly reissued in subsidiary pieces, but more than half, some 48 million yen, were sent over to China and there disposed of as bullion. The people were, however, by no means disposed to accept the gold coins, and an immediate efflux took place. This took the shape of enormous purchases of foreign goods, apparently without much regard to quality, with the result that in the two years 1897-98 the excess in value

of imports over exports rose to the sum of 168 million yen. The new specie currency practically disappeared, and was almost absolutely replaced by paper. This increase of imported goods was by no means confined to Great Britain, and we find it shared in almost greater proportion with Germany, Belgium and the United States. Of these the two last have continued to maintain the advantage gained, Germany showing some slight disposition to slacken. But the sudden disappearance of gold, and as sudden influx of foreign commodities of every description, had other effects, the end of which is not yet apparent, and one of the chief of these was the stimulus given to home manufacture. It was evident that the strain on the finances of the country implied by the enormous excess of imports could not long be maintained, and with characteristic energy the Japanese applied themselves to producing similar goods at home. Japan had always been an industrious country, and during her long isolation had contrived to supply her wants from home sources; she was therefore no novice in the task, and set to it with characteristic energy. The change, not yet completed, is one of the most remarkable on record. In 1893, for example, her exports to China had been under 24 million yen; in ten years they had grown to 95 millions. Although China was the chief customer, she was followed closely by others. During the ten years her exports to the United States trebled from 27 to nearly 83 millions, and with Europe her exports of silk, raw and manufactured, developed in almost similar proportion.

The outcome of all this is, that Japan is herself determined to become a potent factor in the commerce of the world, and is by no means prepared to sit still while others appropriate the entire profits of her trade. Seen from the narrow field of view of the mere local merchant, this is a very reprehensible course to take, and so we have been treated almost *ad nauseam* to stories of the ruin of trade. Already we hear these narrow-minded prophets crying out against Japan's intention of clearing Manchuria from the paralysis of Russian occupation. True, they tell us Japan will increase the trade, but what is that to us? We can make more money out of our petty dealings with the Russians, who being no traders themselves pull the pickings in our way. This is of course not the proper nor the international way to look at the subject. Great Britain as a nation palpably made more out of the trade of 1903, amounting to 50 million yen in value, than she did in 1893 out of an annual export to Japan of twenty-eight million yen. But we have to take a still wider purview to comprehend the real advantage to the nation. Ten years ago the imports of Japan from India amounted to under 8 million yen, in 1903 they amounted to close on seventy. Did Britain herself derive no benefit from the enormous sum of money thus thrown into her great dependency's lap? This is the way in which these fluctuations of trade must be viewed by the economist. The individual may make more perquisites out of the petty barter trade of an aboriginal continent: the nation finds infinitely more profit in the commerce of a progressive colony. Each is right from his own point of view, but each point of view is not equally profitable to the nation at large.

It is now intended to rebuild the Volunteer Headquarters on the existing site, further consideration having led to the abandonment of the site at Happy Valley, where in 1901 it was proposed to build Headquarters at a cost of between sixty and seventy thousand dollars.

FOREIGN TRADE OF COREA.

(Daily Press, 23rd September.)

The statistics of the foreign trade of Corea for 1903 present some interesting features which have been overlooked in the British Consular report. The Consul takes note of the fact that the foreign trade of the peninsula reached the highest figures yet attained and leaves the reader to infer that this is not due to any special cause, but is simply evidence of the country's steady commercial progress. Seeing that the statistics show an advance of considerably over half a million pounds sterling when compared with the highly satisfactory returns of 1902, one may be excused for expecting to find in the Consular report some explanation of this (for Corea) astonishing indication of progress and prosperity. The average of Corea's foreign trade during the previous five years was about £2,500,000; last year the total figured out at £3,384,387. So far from finding in the Consular report what special causes have produced this noteworthy result, we find such statements as "the chance of war had a depressing effect, particularly during the second half of the year"; and, again, "much embarrassment was experienced by merchants in consequence of the continuous drop in the rate of exchange, and it hampered their transactions to a considerable extent." And yet, withal, the returns of foreign trade show an advance of £639,112 sterling! Studying the figures in the recent Consular report and comparing them with those for the previous year, we discover that the imports are responsible for no less than £477,525 of this increase, and when we look into the "Return of the Principal Articles of Import from Foreign Countries," we observe that the import of rice, which in 1902 amounted to 11,447,466 lbs. (following upon a wretched harvest in 1901), is represented in the 1903 return as 20,961,000 lbs. notwithstanding that the rice crop of 1902 was satisfactory. Of grain and pulse the import last year was 25,974,433 lbs. as compared with only 3,998,266 lbs. in the previous year. Flour was imported to five times the amount represented in the previous year's return, and the salt import rose from 17 million to 40 million lbs. In other respects the articles of import showed no remarkable variations. The conclusion seems therefore to be that the increase noted in the trade of the country does not represent a permanent advance, but resulted from preparations either on the part of Japanese or Koreans for the war which broke out early in the present year. We have compiled the following interesting table which will show how the various Treaty ports have been affected by this notable increase in imports:

	1902 Imports.	1903 Imports.
Chemulpo	£814,470	£910,355
Fusan	276,769	366,939
Gensan	191,535	225,693
Kunsan	10,522	92,947
Mokpo	21,515	45,868
Chinnampo	63,413	186,594
Masampo	3,365	17,300
Songchen	762	20,007

The exports show an increase of £161,587 in value, and when we examine the returns we discover that this also is mainly accounted for by the movement of foodstuffs. For example, the export of barley, which in 1902 was only 359,600 lbs., and in 1901 amounted only to 100,133 lbs., rose in 1903 to 2,316,200 lbs. There was a fall to the extent of 16 million lbs. in the export of beans; a fall from 11 million lbs. to 1 million lbs. in the export of wheat; but an

increase of 12 million lbs. in the export of rice, and notable increases also in the export of dried and salt fish, sea weed and millet. All of which goes to show that the chance of war, if it adversely affected trade in foreign-manufactured goods—a view which is hardly supported by the statistical returns—resulted in a larger Customs revenue than had ever been attained before. "Nothing is further from the truth than that Corea is a poor country," the British Consul tells us. That is doubtless true, but we can scarcely regard her last year's foreign trade returns as satisfactory evidence that she is commercially moving so rapidly along the path of progress as the totals at first sight suggest.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(19th September.)

You might not think it, but there are times when I realise to the full, with pain and misgivings, my manifold mental limitations. One Dundreary, who gave his name to a special brand of whiskers, spoke of the existence of "things which no fellow can understand." Things of that kind—the un-understandable, not the whiskers—are constantly cropping up in Hongkong to confound my conceit in my own "savvy." I cannot, for instance, understand why, in a city where half the houses are officially stated to be tumbling down, house rent should be so confoundingly dear. I know a moderately salaried person who is living in a house that isn't big enough to swing a cat in, and the monthly rent he pays is \$130. If he should ever want to go in for cat-swinging, his employer will have to raise his wages, or the tenant will have to take in lodgers. Either way it is a dilemma. The employer has enough to do to raise money to pay present wages, without raising them (you know what I mean), and in the other case, lodgers are proverbially averse to cats, swung or unswung.

Another thing that I cannot understand—and goodness knows I've tried hard—is that reply of the Colonial Secretary to the Hon. R. Shawan, at Thursday's Legislative Council meeting, anent tree cutting. Ever since I was taught my catechism and its strict injunction to cap the parson and all set in authority over me, I have maintained a profound respect for those who know more than I do. There have been so many deaths in the last thirty or forty years that I have still lots of respect in reserve; and I can lay my right hand over the third-from-the-top button of my alpaca waistcoat and declare, truthfully, and without the least suspicion of flippancy, that I have been exhaling double doses of respect for our Colonial Secretary ever since I saw what an excellent Governor he made.

The thing, *inter alia*, that I could not understand was this. The Colonial Secretary said: "In order to plant it is necessary to fell." When I read that, in the *Daily Press* on Friday morning, at the breakfast table, I looked at Mrs. Banyan and sternly asked her why she had not called me at the usual hour? I was under the impression, you see, that I must still be in bed, and dreaming. She said—well, maskee what she said. I realized that it was no dream. I pushed my coffee cup to one side (the right-hand corner of the table, it was) and my liver and bacon to the other. (The left hand side, I think, but am not sure.) Then I placed that little sentence right in front of me, leaned on both elbows, and looked it square in the i. (It begins with an "i," and has two more further on.) There it was, without a doubt. I recited it aloud, deliberately, with a pause between each word. Mrs. Banyan remarked that if I continued to talk foolishness, she would leave the table. Astonishing how quickly the feminine intuition enables them to hit the nail on the head, isn't it? Well, I grappled with that remark once more, and again it baffled me.

I tried several analogies. "In order to live, it is necessary to die." No. Except General Booth, nobody believes that

nowadays, not even the missionaries in China. "In order to save the cake it is necessary to eat it." "In order to bank a dollar it is necessary to spend it." No. These didn't help. One might save a dollar by signing a writ (especially since that recent Shanghai decision), but—why, of course. *Wo fu na Stam!* It's those silly reporters again. The Colonial Secretary never said it. I looked up the other papers. They were all guilty of the same libel. He must have said it.

I gave it up, and went out later to see a Man about it. How he did laugh! "Ha-ha-ha! Fancy a Banyan not understanding forestry," he said. When his smile had evaporated (he took lemon and two lumps with it) he gave me his opinion. The Colonial Secretary meant, he said, that you have to make room for the young trees by rooting out the old ones. I said it sounded cruel. He quoted that other sentence of the reply: "If the mature trees were not gradually replaced by young ones, these advantages would soon be lost." I said it would be soon enough to replace them when they got too old to be useful, which is the policy followed by Governments and Corporations who have no sentiment. I said that forests had a habit, if left alone, of repairing their own dilapidations. I said "the usual methods employed" are the methods employed when growing trees for timber, for filthy lucre. I said the mowing of huge swathes of trees didn't seem to fit with the talk about gradual replacement. I said some other things, and had more to say, but the Man went away and began to chalk his cue.

The wonderfully tenacious vitality shown by the Chinese has been commented upon by more than one European observer of their national characteristics. A striking instance was brought to my notice the other day. A fisherman was brought down from Saikong, in the New Territory, with both legs and part of his head blown off as the result of a premature blast when fishing with dynamite. His people asked that he be allowed to go to hospital. He was so there, and, notwithstanding his terrible injuries, he had so far recovered in less than six weeks that he was able to leave the institution and rejoin his family.

Once more the Colony is free of plague, but the publication of another Colonial Bluebook on the subject serves but to tell us that the St. Georges who for years have been combatting with the hydra-headed dragon have not yet killed him. How many millions of dollars the fight has already cost the Colonial Treasury no man has probably fully calculated. Under the heading of Plague in the Estimates of the Sanitary Department we have but part of the cost, and this part amounts in the current year to \$115,000, while a reduction of only \$11,000 is estimated for next year, though the framers of the estimates hope and expect that in the actual expenditure a larger reduction will be shown. But in reaching an idea of the cost of fighting the plague we have to note, that under this heading in the Estimates there is no mention of the salaries of the staff employed excepting the coolie labour. It would not therefore be over the mark to say that the plague is costing the Colonial Treasury something like \$160,000 a year. (What it costs the port in the form of loss of trade is incalculable). There are no Plaid Pipers in these days to charm away rodents and cockroaches and insects which scientists tell us carry the plague germ and infect the food; they are able to get at the Sanitary authorities have to exterminate them with rat poison and traps, disinfectants, paint soap and turpentine, &c. If the origin and dissemination of plague are explained by the latest theories of the investigators the plague item in the Estimates I am afraid is one of a permanent character. What yet remains to be discovered is how rats and insects manage to get the plague germ onto their bodies in Hongkong and some of the neighbouring cities of China while elsewhere they have it not. When the experts are able to answer this question we shall get within a considerable distance of eradicating the terrible pest.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 22nd inst. in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

HON. COLONEL L. F. BROWN (Commanding the Troops).

HON. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

HON. E. H. SHARP, K.C. (Attorney-General).

HON. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

HON. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

HON. SIR C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

HON. DR. HO KAI, C.M.G.

HON. WEI A YUK.

HON. R. SHEWAN.

HON. GERSHOM STEWART.

HON. W. J. GRESSON.

MR. S. B. C. ROSS (Clerk of Councils).

PAPER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a Report on Cattle Disease in the Colony of Hongkong.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute (No. 48) and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Report of the Finance Committee (No. 9) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A NEW PRAK TRAMWAY.

HON. SIR PAUL CHATER moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for authorising the construction of a Tramway within the Colony of Hongkong.

HON. GERSHOM STEWART seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

WILD BIRDS AND GAME.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Wild Birds and Game Preservation Ordinance, 1885. He said—Sir, the purposes of this measure will be seen from the copy of the Bill now before you. There are two amendments. The first of these amendments has for its object the making of the commencement of the statutory close season for pheasants and partridges—that is to say, to make the statutory close season during which those birds must not be exposed for sale in the Colony—coincide with the commencement of the close season already recognised in game licences. The present position is somewhat anomalous. Game licences forbid the shooting of birds after the 1st of March—March falling within the breeding season of these birds—but the Ordinance permits the sale of birds until the 1st of April, which means that during the month of March they are trapped by the Chinese and kept for sale up till the 1st of April. This inconsistency it is proposed to remove by passing those two amendments. The second amendment has a double purpose. The first of these is the one I have just considered; it also is to prevent the trapping of birds in the close season, the birds being kept in confinement for considerable periods, many of those exposed for sale on the 1st of October, when the sale becomes permissible, having been trapped during the breeding season; so that the second amendment has the same purpose as the first. But it also has an additional purpose—the prevention of the cruelty which is inflicted by keeping these birds in confinement. It is proposed to exempt from the operation of the Bill the sale of birds as pets by bird fanciers, in which cases no doubt the conditions under which the birds are kept are better.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council went into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause, without making any amendment.

On the Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of HIS EXCELLENCY the Bill was passed.

TUNG WAH HOSPITAL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for enabling the Tung Wah Hospital to acquire, hold, mortgage and sell land and hereditaments in the Colony of Hongkong. He said—Sir,—The occasion for this measure is that the Tung Wah Hospital for a great many years—I think for more than 30 years—has been investing its surplus funds in the purchase of land in this Colony. In the Bill there is a list of the lands which the Tung Wah Hospital at present holds. Doubts have now arisen as to whether these purchases have been technically within the powers conferred by the Tung Wah Hospital Ordinance, 1870, which authorises the purchase of lands for the purposes of a hospital, and it is desirable that these doubts should be removed and the Tung Wah Hospital given unquestionable powers in the future to make such purchases and to sell, mortgage, and deal with the land according to the restrictions which are laid down in the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then taken into Committee and passed through that stage without amendment.

On the Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of HIS EXCELLENCY, the Bill was passed.

THE OPIUM ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend The Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891. He said—Sir,—This is an amended form of the Bill which has already been read twice before this Council, and the points which are raised in this measure have, I believe, been very fully discussed before the Council at former meetings. It is believed that the new Bill will equitably meet all those points. I beg to remind hon. members, Sir, that owing to the language which was employed in the principal Ordinance in defining prepared opium, all compounds of opium—for example opium pills and opium wine, which were particularly mentioned—if they could not be proved to have been subjected to artificial heat in the process of their preparation, have hitherto escaped contributing to the opium revenue; and apparently the taking of opium in the form of these compounds has considerably increased of late in the Colony. That may be seen, I think, from the circumstance that the majority of the signatories to the petition presented to this Council from the dealers in compounds of opium were admittedly those who had dealt in these compounds for only a very short period. This new Bill does several things. It regulates the sale of these compounds of opium. It provides that the importers of such compounds shall pay a licence fee which shall go to the opium farmer. It preserves the existing trade within the Colony in articles of this character, stipulating only that importers shall pay a royalty to the opium farmer upon the actual opium contained in the compounds. The new Bill absolutely preserves the export trade, as I think, was promised by the Officer Administering the Government in this Council, and there is a provision in the new Bill exempting from the operation of the Ordinance European and American medicines which may contain opium. I think, Sir, under the Bill the interests of the existing traders on the one hand and the Colonial Government and the opium farmer on the other hand have been fairly conserved.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—In view of the discussion that took place on the Bill which was withdrawn at the last meeting of Council, I have gone very carefully myself into the question of the desirability of having a Bill restricting the sale of opium pills and opium wine. I came to the conclusion that such a Bill was necessary. I have no doubt that so long as the sale of opium is allowed in this Colony

the policy which will best advance the interests of the general community is that a maximum revenue should be obtained from a minimum consumption. The constantly increased sums that have been paid for the opium farm tends to the realisation of this policy. It will however be defeated if compounds of opium—that is, opium in another form—can be sold without pay or profit to the opium farmer, and consequently indirectly contributing to the revenue of the Colony. There seems to be no doubt that the enhanced price of opium has resulted in an increased sale of these non-revenue-paying compounds of opium, and it is in my mind desirable that this sale should be checked. One argument which I see was used against the checking of the sale was that the use of these compounds tends to lessening the consumption of opium, or rather the lessening of the opium smoking habit; but no medical evidence has been adduced, or, I think, could be adduced in support of this. The other objection which was urged formerly to the principle of the Bill was the vested interests of certain dealers in the compounds of opium. It seems to me that where the unrestricted sale of any article is deleterious there can be no inherent right to the unrestricted sale of that article. The details of the Bill have been fully explained by the hon. Attorney-General, and it is not necessary for me to add anything to what he has said.

The motion was agreed to.

When the Council went into Committee on the Bill it passed through that stage without alteration.

The Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of HIS EXCELLENCY, the Bill was passed.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1897. He said—Sir,—The purposes of this measure are to obviate a defect which has been found in the working of the principal Ordinance, and also to enable the Police to deal more effectively with the evil of so-called "sly brothels." There are two amendments proposed. The purpose of the first is this. At present, under Section 13—the section which it is proposed to amend—of the principal Ordinance brothel keepers can only be brought before the Magistrate by summons. This method has been found insufficient. Keepers disappear on receiving the summons and their brothels are carried on of course in their absence. It is proposed therefore to empower the Magistrates to issue warrants for the arrest of brothel keepers. That is the purpose of the first of the two amendments proposed. The purpose of the second is this. As the principal Ordinance now stands the Magistrate can only order the brothel to be closed. He has no further powers. This practically imposes very little—at any rate insufficient—inconvenience upon the brothel keepers, who continue to remove as their houses are continued to be closed, and they so get beyond the reach of any penalty. It is proposed therefore to revive the provisions, upon these points, of the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1889, which imposed a penalty on any person keeping a brothel for any offence including the first offence.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council dissolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause.

There were no amendments.

On the Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY moved that the Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to.

The Council adjourned till Thursday, 29th inst., at 2.30 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council—the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding.

VICTORIA GAOL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,650 in aid of the Victoria Gaol, Other Charges, for the following items:—

Provisions for prisoners	\$3,000
Clothing and shoes for Gaol Staff	450
Fuel and soap	400
Materials for remunerative industry	800

Total... \$4,650

The CHAIRMAN said that this vote was necessary owing to the increased number of prisoners in Victoria Gaol.

The vote was passed.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the general committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, held on Tuesday, 6th September, there were present:—Mr. F. A. Hewett (Chairman), Hon. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, A. G. Wood, Hon. R. Shewan (ex officio) and A. R. Lowe, Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Secretary reported that the following firms had been elected members since the last meeting, subject to usual confirmation by the members at the annual general meeting:—Messrs. Midzushima & Co., and Messrs. Aagaard Thorsen & Co.

CLAYTON'S APPARATUS FOR DISINFECTING SHIPS.

A communication from the Colonial Secretary was read stating that the views of the Chamber of Commerce on this subject had been noted by the Government.

PRODUCTION OF TEA AND COFFEE IN INDIA.

The report by the Statistical Department of the Indian Government on the production of tea and coffee in India for the 19 years to 1903 was laid on the table.

CURRENCY QUESTION.

The following letter was read:—Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai, 27th August, 1904. The Secretary, General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.—Currency Reform.—Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th instant, handing two signed and twelve unsigned printed copies of letter addressed to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Peking by the Chambers of Shanghai, Hongkong and Tientsin. My Committee acquiesces in the slight amendments made by your Chamber, and the letter having been signed here is being forwarded, with the additional copies to Tientsin, with a request to carry out your Chamber's suggestions relating thereto.—I am, dear Sir, Yours faithfully, (Sd.) Leslie J. Cubitt, Secretary.

REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.

The adjourned discussion on this subject was proceeded with and again adjourned to the next monthly meeting.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 20th instant in the Board Room. The Principal Civil Medical Officer, Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present: Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Major Josling, R.A.M.C., Dr. W. W. Pearse (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. T. A. Haumer, Secretary.

WANCHAI BATHS.

It was reported that the Government had approved of the Board's recommendation that additional accommodation be provided at Wanchai bath-house.

DISEASE AMONG GOATS.

Mr. A. Gibson, V.S., reported under date 8th September that an infectious disease had appeared among the goats housed for slaughter in the Kennedy Town depots. Their symptoms were running at the eyes, foetid diarrhoea, and rapid emaciation. Death usually occurred in four or five days. During the past week 23 goats had died. He had made post mortem and

microscopic examinations of the blood, etc., but was unable to give the disease a definite name. He had consulted the Government Bacteriologist and an examination was being made. There were in the depot 850 goats. To limit the spread of the disease the healthy goats had been removed to the old Tung Wa mortuary, the sheds had been washed and disinfected, and the sick goats confined apart. Twice a day the healthy goats were examined and any suspicious case isolated. 52 goats were under observation. These goats came from Shanghai and were used as food by the Indians in the Colony.

Mr. Rumjahn:—"Some time ago a British Consul in one of the northern ports reported to the local Government that an infectious disease of some sort had broken out amongst the cattle in the north of China, and it would be well that all cattle from Shanghai should be isolated for a few days if possible. It would be impossible for the C.V.S. to examine every head of cattle in the sheds, to detect symptoms of disease, every day, unless his whole time was spent in the sheds. The steps taken to check the spread of the disease were all that could be done under the circumstances."

Mr. Pollock:—"I presume that all goats arriving are inspected on arrival?"

The PRESIDENT said that all goats were examined by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon before they were slaughtered, the same as every animal introduced into the Colony.

SCAVENGING AT THE PEAK.

There was laid on the table the report of the sub-committee re the scavenging of the Peak District. It was as follows:—"There is no doubt that nothing approaching the actual amount of rubbish removed from houses in the Peak District reaches the dust-boats. The inspector in charge of the district estimates the amount to be removed daily by the contractor at 42 56 piculs, but we are inclined to think this is somewhat below the mark, and to estimate the amount at between 45 and 50 piculs. On the two occasions, however, that the rubbish has been weighed on its arrival at the dust-boat it was found to weigh on the first occasion 20 piculs net and on the second occasion 22 piculs gross. On each occasion no opportunity was given the coolies of getting rid of any portion of their load between Victoria Gap and the boat. If these two days were average days the amount of rubbish removed to the dust-boats during, say, the two months of May and June would have been 1,280 piculs, whilst the amount we would expect to have been removed from the houses would be 2,900 piculs, according to our estimate. No doubt the balance of 1,620 piculs was tipped in nullahs and elsewhere on the hillside; and as a matter of fact the amount of rubbish actually discovered on the hillsides during these two months by officers of the Sanitary Department was 1,228 piculs.

2. The minimum number of coolies the Peak scavenging contractor is required to supply is 30; the average number employed previous to the attention of the committee having been directed to this question is stated to have been 28. It appears to us that under proper management the number of coolies employed is sufficient, but if experience shows that it is not, the contractor should be called upon to supply a few more.

3. The present means of ensuring that the contractor carries out his work satisfactorily appear to us to be sufficient if the officers of the department exercise vigilance. It is not easy to discover coolies in the act of dumping rubbish, but in March and April last four were discovered and convicted, and we are of opinion that were the Police directed to co-operate with the Sanitary Department and to make special endeavours to prevent this practice a great deal more might be done. After it has been dumped there can be no difficulty at all in discovering the rubbish, as the tips will be no great distance from the houses and the roads. On the discovery of these tips by an officer of the Sanitary Department the contractor is given a reasonable time to remove the refuse, and on his failing to do so the work is carried out by the Sanitary Department under clause 21 of the contract at the contractor's expense. Between 29th March and 15th April the contractor was charged \$110.48 on this account, and between the 9th and 18th May \$417.46.

4. These means will not ensure the rubbish getting farther than the dust-boats, and it is notorious that the greater part of it never reaches Chinwan, but is emptied into the Harbour. We recommend that next year a separate contract should be entered into for removing the rubbish from Victoria (to Chinwan, the contractor to be paid according to the quantity of rubbish deposited there. Measurement of the amount deposited can be made and the space available at Chinwan is ample.

5. We have considered the advisability of the Sanitary Department itself undertaking the work of scavenging and removing the rubbish. We are of opinion that a fair trial might be given to paying by measurement for removing the rubbish before going to the expense of any other scheme such as the one proposed by Mr. Chatham of removing the rubbish to sea in hopper barges. There would be no difficulty next year in the department undertaking the scavenging of the Peak as a portion of Victoria, and leaving the rest of the work to be carried out by contract. It would be possible in this way to compare the cost and effectiveness of the two methods without incurring any serious expense or risking failure, and if successful the extension of the method to other parts of the Colony could be gradually effected with economy."

Mr. Hewett minuted:—"While I agree with the above in the main I consider that there can be no satisfactory means of disposing of the rubbish until hopper barges are constructed and the rubbish dropped out at sea"; which was also signed by Dr. Pearce.

It was further minuted in reply to enquiries by members that there had been 35 complaints from June to August and 4 convictions.

The Captain Superintendent of Police minuted:—"The Police do co-operate as much as they possibly can."

Mr. Hewett:—"I am glad to hear that we have the fullest support possible given by the Police. I would, however, like to direct the attention of the Board to the fact that while it is possible for a private individual to walk along the Peak roads and at frequent intervals see traces of house rubbish having been dumped by the sides of the roads, complaints to this effect are not very frequently received from the Sanitary officers and Police."

The PRESIDENT moved that the report be adopted.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL seconded.

Mr. RUMJAHN asked why this report on the scavenging of the Peak should be considered in public whereas the report of the sub-committee on the drainage system, which was dealt with at last meeting, had to be considered confidentially. He did not know what system existed for dealing with these matters confidentially or in the open Board, for the report on the drainage system was of far greater importance than the report of the scavenging of the Hill district.

The PRESIDENT explained that the Board itself at last meeting but one had decided that the drainage report should be considered confidentially. It was not customary for the Board to consider any report of a committee in public meeting which would necessitate an alteration of the laws at present in force in the Colony; at any rate, not before it had been considered by the Legislature.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 13th September showed that during that period 1,126 houses in the Eastern district and 80 in the Central had been cleansed.

MILK ANALYSIS.

Mr. A. C. Franklin, Government Analyst, reported on two samples of fresh milk, bought by Inspector C. W. Brett at 22, Cochrane Street, and 41, Hollywood Road; he was of opinion they were samples of genuine milk.

CHANGE OF MEETING DAY.

At the conclusion of the public business, The PRESIDENT stated that the Board had met that day instead of on Thursday so that their meeting would not clash with that of the Legislative Council. His Excellency wished that they should meet on some other day than Thursday, and if it suited the convenience of members he would propose that in future they meet on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 19th September.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE CALENDAR.

The calendar was a light one, comprising only five cases, of which two applied to the same person. There was one charge of forgery, one of arson, one of detaining persons for the purposes of emigration, one of robbery with violence, and one of receiving stolen goods.

FORGERY.

Si Sang was charged with having on 16th August at Shauiwan forged a receipt for Tls. 26.132, also with altering a receipt for Tls. 21.132, and with uttering the forged receipt.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs H. E. Craddock, J. T. Dixon, W. E. Craig, S. V. A. Uldall, W. W. G. Ross, J. Gloyn, and H. G. Simons.

The Hon. Attorney-General, Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution. In opening the case he stated that the prisoner was charged with forging a receipt for Tls. 26 odd by means of altering the amount of the genuine receipt for Tls. 21 into Tls. 26 for the purpose of appropriating the difference between the two amounts. Prisoner was a buyer in a vegetable shop at Shauiwan, for which he received a salary; he also had a share in the shop. As buyer for the shop he received a receipt book in which the persons to whom he paid money for goods bought for the shop entered the amount he paid and put their chops on the entries in the manner usual among the Chinese. The receipt which prisoner was charged with forging was one of the receipts in this book. On 16th August, early in the morning, the accountant in the vegetable shop handed the prisoner some money to go into Hongkong and make some purchases with. Prisoner came into Hongkong and went, amongst other places, to the Central Market, where he went to a fruit stall and bought goods to the amount of Tls. 21, or about \$23 or \$29. The man at the fruit stall accordingly entered in the prisoner's receipt book Tls. 21 and chopped the entry with the chop of the stall. Later in the day the prisoner returned to the shop at Shauiwan and the accountant at the shop saw this receipt, which meanwhile had been altered from Tls. 21 to Tls. 26, and thought from its appearance that it had been altered. He asked prisoner how much he had actually paid to the fruit stall, and the prisoner said he had paid him Tls. 26. The accountant therefore entered the sum of Tls. 26 in his books. Subsequently, being in Hongkong, he went to the fruit stall, and on making enquiries found that the amount paid by the prisoner was Tls. 21, and that he must have altered it himself. Prisoner's purpose was obviously to appropriate the difference between the two amounts. The characters representing the sums of Tls. 21 and Tls. 26 were so much alike that the addition of a single stroke was sufficient to make the alteration.

The jury after hearing the evidence found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship in passing sentence of 18 months' imprisonment said that though the amount involved in this forgery was a small one the offence was a grave one in a commercial community like this.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Yan Shan was brought up on a charge of having on 17th August at Hungau, together with certain persons unknown, committed an armed robbery and stolen over \$100, some jewellery, and about 50 pieces of clothing belonging to Cheung Fuk Yau and Hong Chuen; he was also charged with receiving stolen goods.

A plea of not guilty was tendered.

A jury was chosen as follows:—Messrs H. B. Bridger, N. J. Stabb, E. G. Smith, H. F. Campbell, J. T. Dixon, W. Wadekind and N. K. Davidson.

The Attorney-General in opening the case said the scene of this crime was a grocer's

shop belonging to Cheung Fuk Yau at Hungau, a village at the head of Junk Bay. On 17th August shortly after midnight the owner of the shop was asleep in the cockloft, and a woman named Hong with her two children were asleep in a room on the ground floor. Cheung Fuk Yau was awakened by the breaking in of the front door. He saw four men enter, carrying lights, and some of them with weapons. The robbers went into the woman's room and demanded jewellery and money. She said she had none; whereupon they bound and blindfolded her and ransacked the shop. Then they climbed into the cockloft and treated the man in the same way and took everything of value out of the place. When the robbers had got away with their booty the woman gave the alarm. Prisoner was a man employed in the Dock and lived at Shauiwan. On 19th August, two days after the robbery, he sold some of the stolen property, and on information received by the police they arrested him and found in his house a clock that had been among the stolen property. Both Cheung Fuk Yau and Hong Chuen identified the prisoner as having been one of the gang.

Evidence was taken.

The jury found the charge proven, and sentence was deferred until after luncheon.

After the interval, Yau Shan was further charged with having on 29th August received a quantity of stolen property, which he denied.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs J. Gloyn, H. F. Campbell, W. E. Craig, H. M. Basto, J. Oppenheim, N. J. Stabb, and A. H. Ough.

The Attorney-General said in his opening that the prisoner was charged with receiving stolen goods, the proceeds of a burglary which had been committed on the night of 24th August, he knowing that they were stolen goods. Prisoner was not charged with being concerned in the actual burglary, although the evidence should leave very little doubt in the minds of the jury that he was. From the nature of the goods stolen it would appear that the burglary must have been committed by a gang, and there was no doubt that the prisoner was in league with the gang. However, what he was charged with was receiving the goods which were the proceeds of the burglary. The scene of the burglary was the shop of a fishmonger named Cheong Kam Wo at Shauiwan. About half-past nine in the evening of 24th August the wife of this man was alone in her house. The husband and his foki were away looking after the former's boat as it was the first night of the typhoon. She went to bed, having previously barred the door of the house. Two hours later she was awakened by the sounds of the wind and the waves, and she saw the door standing open. The bar of the door when afterwards examined showed that the door had been opened by force from the outside. On looking over the house the woman found that two boxes of clothing belonging to the foki of the shop were missing. She gave the alarm. Next morning the missing boxes were found some distance away, on the hillside, with the contents removed. A day or two later this prisoner was arrested by the police in another matter, and when he was taken to the station pawn-tickets were found in his possession which referred to a pair of trousers and a coat which had been among the stolen property. In his house another stolen coat was found. When charged at the station prisoner said the jacket found in his house was his own as well as the pawn-tickets. Before the Magistrate he altered his account and said he knew nothing about the jacket, and the pawn-tickets had nothing to do with him.

The jury after hearing evidence returned a unanimous verdict of guilty.

His Lordship said he had been found guilty of two serious charges—armed gang robbery and receiving stolen goods. He was a dangerous character to the community, and would be sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour on each count, running consecutively, with 24 strokes of the birch within the first six months in respect of the first offence.

ARSON.

Lam Yam, a youth of 20 years, was charged with having committed arson at 123, Wellington Street, or alternatively with having set fire to two rattan chairs, the property of the owner of the house.

The prisoner admitted having set fire to the chairs, but said he did it under the influence of anger against one of the men employed in the house, and had no intention to burn down the dwelling.

Sentence—12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 20th September.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

OFFENCE AGAINST THE EMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

Wong Chun, Yeung Cheung, and Chu Han were charged with having on 15th August, by force, intimidation and fraud, detained four men for the purpose of emigration.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs N. J. Stabb, H. E. Craddock, E. G. Smith, M. H. Michael, F. G. Smith, O. J. Ellis, and H. M. Basto.

The Attorney-General, Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution. He said in opening the case for the Crown that the first two prisoners were watchmen and the third a cook in the employ of the Kwong Hop Wo, a licensed boarding house for emigrants. They were charged with unlawfully detaining four men. He would show that this was a part of a larger conspiracy, where no doubt other persons were concerned, to defeat and evade the beneficial provisions of the Emigration Ordinance, made for the protection of unwilling emigrants. He would prove also that the kidnapping and trepanning of emigrants was unfortunately very common in this Colony. It was an offence difficult to bring home to the offenders, partly because the kidnapped persons were shipped out of the Colony quickly and sent down to the Malay States and other places, and partly because they belonged to a proverbially stupid class of people, called by the Chinese *chu tsai* ("little pigs"), people of no intelligence or they would not allow themselves to be kidnapped. This boarding house was known as a "little pig" boarding house, because they evaded the Emigration Ordinance and sent accomplices to impersonate the emigrants and submit themselves to examination of the emigration officer, who was supposed to find out whether or not the emigrants were willing to go.

His Lordship remarked that the Attorney-General must confine himself to the facts relating to this particular case.

The Attorney-General said he only made these remarks after having fully considered the matter and in view of what might occur in the future. The Police had discovered through this case that this was a general practice. This boarding house consisted of the two upper floors—second and third—of a building running from Des Voeux Road West to Connaught Road. The entrance to the whole premises was by a door on the second floor, so that it was practically a prison. It was an accidental circumstance that led to the discovery of this case. On 16th August a man fell over the verandah of the top floor into the street and was killed. The police entered the house, and on making enquiries found that the deceased had been a kidnapped emigrant who in trying to escape had fallen over the verandah. Sundry inmates of the kidnapped emigrant class told the Police how they had been brought down from the interior under promise that they would get work in Hongkong. The agents paid their fares and all expenses. On arriving in Hongkong these unhappy men were taken straight to this boarding house and were not allowed to leave it. Watchmen were constantly stationed at the doors to prevent them leaving, and they were threatened with all sorts of consequences if they got out. They were told that they would be immediately arrested by the Police, and being ignorant people and total strangers they were terrorised by those absurd stories. It was not until the very last moment they were told anything about emigration. On 15th August ten people from this boarding house

presented themselves before the emigration officer, and, pretending to be emigrants willing to emigrate, got permission to go. These were coolies from the house who personated those who were to be sent away. But for this accident to one of the inmates these kidnapped emigrants would have been sent away next day by the *Catherine Apcar* to Singapore.

Evidence was led.

The jury after hearing the evidence found the prisoners guilty as libeled and recommended the third, Chu Han, a youth, to the mercy of the Court.

His Lordship sentenced Wong Chun and Yeung Cheung each to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour and Chu Han to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

On hearing the sentence the second prisoner Yeung Cheung, an old man, bumped his forehead repeatedly on the bar of the dock before he could be restrained by the Court attendants.

This being the last case on the calendar the Court rose.

Thursday, 22nd September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM AGAINST CONTRACTORS.

Jack a Tai & Co., 551, Des Vœux Road Central, sued the four partners of the Tai Lee firm, contractors, 8, Chinese Street, for \$762.20, being money paid for and on behalf of the defendants and at their request, and money paid by the plaintiffs to the defendants, the consideration for which had failed. Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs. The defendants were unrepresented.

Mr. Grist said that only two of the partners of the defendant firm, namely, Cheung Sam and Lam Sow Sing, had been served, and he proposed to proceed against them. The defendant firm had done excavation work for plaintiffs at Taikoo, and from time to time had drawn money on account. When the work was measured up it was found that they had been overpaid. During the progress of the work money was paid by the plaintiffs to the Tai Tai firm, at the request of the defendants, for food, wages, etc.

His Lordship after hearing evidence gave judgment against the two defendants named for the amount claimed with costs.

MARINE COURT.

Monday, 19th September.

BEFORE HON. L. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N.
(MARINE MAGISTRATE).

FAILING TO REPORT DAMAGE.

Mr. Edward Jones, first boarding officer, charged Capt. William Angus, master of the British s.s. *Kong Nam*, with unlawfully failing to report to the Harbour Master the damage, affecting the seaworthiness and efficiency, sustained by the *Kong Nam*, on her arrival at Hongkong on the 9th inst.

Complainant deposed that on the 15th inst. he heard that the shaft of the *Kong Nam*, a river steamer, had been broken. He reported the matter to the assistant Harbour Master, and told him that no report had been made of the circumstances. He heard that the master had been discharged, so asked the owners to send in a report, which he believed was done.

Mr. Remedios, fourth clerk of the Harbour Office, said that the *Kong Nam* arrived here on the 8th inst. and the master, Mr. William Angus, reported her arrival on the 9th inst. No report whatever was made of any accident to the vessel.

The defendant said it went out of his mind to report the accident when he reported his arrival.

His Worship: Where did the accident occur?

Defendant: About four miles from Kong-moon, in the West River. The B. & S. *Tak Hing* towed us to port.

His Worship: Have you no account of this accident?

Defendant: No.

His Worship: Not in the official log-book?

Defendant: No; I wanted to get the mate to write it up on Monday, the day of our arrival. I cannot write myself with my bad hands.

His Worship: Are you not in the habit of keeping the official log written up?

Defendant: Previous to this there has been nothing to write.

His Worship: How long have you been in this ship?

Defendant: About two months.

His Worship: During that time you have been in command, have you not written the official log at all?

Defendant: No.

His Worship: You have a master's certificate. You must know that you have not been complying with the Merchant Shipping Act.

The log-book was sent for.

His Worship: Mr. Jones said that you were discharged from the ship. Is that so?

Defendant: Yes, I was discharged on Monday.

The log-book was produced.

His Worship: You have not got a single entry, not even the list of your crew.

Summing up, His Worship said: Had I known before this enquiry that misconduct or incompetency, under whichever name it comes, would have been brought to light, such as this infringement of the Merchant Shipping law, that you had not kept an official log, I should have asked for a Marine Court to determine as to whether your master's certificate should not have been interfered with. As it is I have no option but to deal with your offence on its own merits.

The defendant, not being able to pay a fine, was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment.

A COLLISION.

An inquiry was held into the circumstances of a collision which took place on the evening of the 15th September between the steam launches *Cheong Lee* and *Bismarck I*.

The coxswain of the launch *Bismarck I* stated that when proceeding westward from Blake Pier he saw the *Cheong Lee* about 100 yards off on his starboard bow. He blew two blasts to indicate that he was going to cross the *Cheong Lee's* starboard bow. A third launch near by also gave two blasts. Witness did not alter his course at all. After the third launch had passed him, going in the opposite direction, he saw the *Cheong Lee* again. A few seconds later she collided with him.

The coxswain of the *Cheong Lee* said he first saw the *Bismarck I* on his port bow about 200 yards off. He gave one blast on his whistle and kept on his course without altering speed. The *Bismarck I* also held on her course, and he struck her almost amidships. After the collision he went full speed astern. He did not alter his course from the time that he blew the whistle until the collision occurred.

His Worship held that the coxswain of the *Bismarck I* was entirely to blame for the collision. The other launch was quite justified in holding on its course and the *Bismarck I* should have given way. The culprit's certificate was suspended for six weeks.

Tuesday, 20th September.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. BARNES-LAWRENCE
R.N. (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

COMPLAINT FROM THE "EMPRESS OF JAPAN."

Mr. Henry Pybus, master of the C.P.R. s.s. *Empress of Japan*, charged A. Hughes, one of his quartermasters, with wilfully disobeying his orders on the ship, and being absent without leave, on the 19th inst., in the waters of this Colony.

Complainant deposed that defendant was repeatedly absent from his ship on the 11th, 12th and 13th inst. He was given distinct orders not to leave the ship without permission. On the 19th inst. he was again absent. This was his first voyage in the ship, having shipped at Vancouver.

Defendant pleaded guilty. He said he had been in the company four years. He was sorry.

The man was sentenced to forfeit 14 days pay, and to be imprisoned for one month. Should the ship leave before the expiration of the sentence he was to be put on board.

Wednesday, 21st September.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. BARNES-LAWRENCE,
R.N. (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

S.S. "SAMBIA" FINED.

Mr. Basil Taylor, the assistant harbour-master, charged Mr. Luning, master of the German s.s. *Sambia*, with failing to enter his ship at the Harbour Office within 24 hours of his arrival.

Complainant deposed that at about 6 a.m. on the 19th inst. the defendant's ship arrived in port. The defendant did not enter her at the Harbour Office till 3.30 p.m. on the 20th inst., 9½ hours after he should have done so.

The defendant said he had nothing to offer in his defence, except that he had been very busy.

Mr. Luning was fined \$3.

FAILING TO REPORT.

P.-C. Arthur Counsell, of the Water Police, charged Chan Po, the master of licensed junk S. 218 H., with failing within 18 hours of his arrival, to report at the Harbour Office.

Complainant deposed that on the 9th inst. he was on duty in the Harbour, off Cheelikok Island, when he stopped the defendant's trading junk. He examined her licence, to which was attached a special permit, which had expired on the 26th of March last. On examining the pass book he found that the junk had visited Hongkong nine times since the permit was issued. He arrested defendant.

Defendant said he did not report because the weather was rough. He apologised for making mistakes in not reporting.

The man was fined \$20 or 14 days' imprisonment.

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LD.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL.

An extraordinary meeting of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., was held on the 2nd inst. at Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s offices, Pedder Street, for the purpose of confirming the following special resolutions passed at a meeting of the Company held on 31st August:—

1. That the capital of the Company be increased from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 by the creation of 10,000 new shares of \$50 each.

2. That such new shares be issued at a premium of \$30 per share and be offered to those persons who are registered as shareholders of the Company on 1st October, 1904, in the proportion of one share for every complete three shares held by them on 1st October, 1904.

3. That the amount due for the new shares be called up on 31st December, 1904.

Hon. W. J. Gresson (chairman) presided, and there were also present Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, E. S. Wheeler, A. J. Raymond, E. Shellim, A. G. Wood, E. Goetz, E. A. Hewett, C. H. Thompson, H. Schubart (directors), L. S. Lewis, R. C. Wilcox, T. F. Hough, J. Orange, W. A. Cruickshank, Ho Fook, and E. Osborne (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting, and the resolutions,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—This meeting is for the purpose of confirming the resolutions passed on 31st August, which have just been read to you. I now beg to propose that they be confirmed.

Mr. T. F. HOUGH seconded, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

This was all the business.

THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first ordinary General Meeting, to be held at the offices of the company, on Wednesday, the 28th inst., is as follows:—

The general managers have now to submit to the shareholders their report on the twenty-first year's working of the company, ended 30th June, 1904.

After paying all running expenses, premia of insurance, remuneration of consulting committee and auditors' fees, there remains

net profit of \$41,622.62, which, with the consent of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

"To pay a dividend of 4 per cent. on the capital of the company, which will absorb \$40,000.00, and to write off the balance of \$1,662.62 from the values of the company's properties on the 30th June last."

A condition of abnormal depression in the shipping trade of the Far East prevailed during the greater portion of the period under review, and a large number of vessels otherwise unemployed were forced to seek employment on the coast, rendering competition more keen than ever.

In the last few months, however, a marked change for the better has been noticeable, and it is hoped that this will continue.

All the steamers of the company have been maintained in a state of thorough efficiency and are in first-class order.

The amounts appearing as freights due and accounts receivable on 30th June have since been collected.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since last meeting, the Hon. C. W. Dickson and Mr. C. A. Tomes have resigned, the vacancies being filled by the Hon. W. J. Gresson and the Hon. R. Shewan. The Committee now consists of the Hon. W. J. Gresson, the Hon. R. Shewan, Mr. C. H. Thompson and Mr. A. G. Wood, who all retire in terms of the articles of association, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts for the six months ended 31st December, 1903, were audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe, and for the final six months ended 30th June, 1904, by Messrs. A. R. Lowe and F. Maitland, the latter acting for Mr. Potts. Messrs. Lowe and Potts now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.
General Managers.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

For the year ended 30th June, 1904.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account:—			
20,000 shares at \$50	1,000,000.00		
Reserve fund	185,000.00		
Underwriting account of the company	85,499.19		
Sundry accounts payable	46,353.36		
Unpaid dividends	45.00		
Unpaid bonus	138.00		
Profit and loss account	41,662.62		
	\$1,359,028.17		

ASSETS.

Value of the Co.'s steamers:— Haitan, Haiching, Haimun, Hailoong, and Thales, as per last report	913,000.00		
Less amount written off as re- solved at last general meeting	38,000.00		
	875,000.00		
Value of buoys and moorings at Swatow, Amoy, Tamsui and Hongkong, steam launch and wharf at Hongkong, as per last report	46,115.34		
Less amount written off as re- solved at last general meeting	3,630.67		
	42,484.67		
Loans on mortgage	246,000.00		
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corpora- tion	61,157.45		
Freights due on 30th June, 1904	77,620.43		
Sundry accounts receivable from agencies, &c.	55,471.22		
Coal account, stock in hand	2,616.58		
Cash in hand	1,727.82		
	\$1,359,028.17		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the year ended 30th June, 1904.

To dividend paid for year ending 30th June, 1903	\$ 60,000.00		
To reserve account, amount transferred as resolved at last general meeting	11,100.93		
To amount written off for depreciation for year ended 30th June, 1903	41,680.67		
To exchange account	523.74		
To auditors' fees	600.00		
To remuneration to consulting committee for 12 months	2,000.00		
To remuneration to general managers for office expenses, for 12 months	10,000.00		
To balance	41,662.62		
	\$167,566.96		
By balance of profit and loss account, 30th June, 1903	112,731.60		
By coal account at Amoy, profit	\$ 15.46		

By coal account at Hongkong, profit	1,132.95		
By general interest account	1,248.41		
By interest on mortgages account	2,921.21		
By interest on running the company's steamers during the year	15,657.46		
	24,958.8		
	\$167,566.96		

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

The Report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-first ordinary meeting to be held at the Society's offices at noon on Thursday, 20th October, is as follows:—

The directors have now to submit to the shareholders a report of the business of the society for the year 1903, and for the six months ending the 30th June, 1904.

1903.—The net premium collected for the year, after deducting returns and reinsurances, amounts to \$4,256,781.38. After providing for a bonus of 20 per cent. on contributions paid in May last, there remains at credit of working account a balance of \$1,178,122.86.

From this sum the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of \$35 per share, equivalent to 35 per cent. on the paid up capital of \$100 per share, and an addition to the reserve fund of \$100,000, raising the reserve to \$1,850,000. They further recommend the establishment of a sterling reserve, and propose to set aside for this purpose £20,000, which at exchange 1s.10d. will absorb a further \$2,818.82. The balance remaining of \$509,941.04 they propose to carry forward to underwriting suspense account to close the account for the year 1903.

The balance to the credit of this year's account amounted on the 30th June, 1904, to \$2,078,997.41.

DIRECTORS.

Since the last general meeting Mr. C. A. Tomes has resigned his seat on leaving the Colony, and Mr. A. Forbes, of Messrs. Bradley & Co., has joined the Board.

In accordance with clause 86 of the articles of association Mr. H. W. Slade and Mr. E. S. Wheeler retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. W. H. Potts, the Board appointed Mr. F. Maitland to audit the present accounts in his place. Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

A. G. WOOD.
Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—
WORKING ACCOUNT, 1903.
On 30th June, 1904.

Dr.		\$	c.
To working account, balance on 30th June, 1903, brought forward (sterling portion converted at 1s. 8d.)	1,959,926.54		
Less difference in exchange (due to conversion of sterling portion of above at 1s. 10d.)	112,981.06		
	1,846,945.48		
To net premium from 1st July to 31st December, 1903	1,582,046.94		
To interest	197,299.04		
To exchange	925.51		
	\$3,627,211.57		
Cr.		\$	c.
By agency commissions	67,171.96		
By head office, branches and agency charges	220,814.34		
By remuneration for half-year ending 31st December, 1903, to directors, committees and auditors	14,571.45		
By losses and claims paid	1,839,853.05		
By bonus on contributions account 1903, (declared 15th April, 1904)	306,677.91		
By balance	1,178,122.86		
	\$3,627,211.57		

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1904.
On 30th June, 1904.

Dr.		\$	c.
To net premium from 1st January to 30th June, 1904	2,887,866.57		
To interest	112,071.81		
	\$2,999,938.38		

Cr.		\$	c.
By agency commissions	67,171.96		
By head office, branches and agency charges	221,914.83		
By remuneration for half-year ending 31st June, 1904, to directors, com- mittees and auditors	16,259.99		
By losses and claims paid	620,685.37		
By exchange	553.86		
By balance	2,078,997.41		
	\$2,999,938.38		

BALANCE-SHEET.

On the 30th June, 1904.

Dr.		\$	c.
To capital 10,000 shares of \$250 each -- \$2,500,000 upon which \$10 per share called and paid up	1,000,000.00		
To reserve fund	1,750,000.00		
To unclaimed bonus and dividend	42,357.01		
To exchange fluctuation account	320,269.01		
To investment fluctuation account	52,430.27		
To working account, 1903, balance	1,178,122.86		
To working account, 1904, balance	2,078,997.41		
To reinsurance fund, £81,865.8s. 9d.	893,110.23		
To underwriting suspense account, £30,876.5s. 8d.	336,812.18		
To sundry creditors	264,642.34		
	\$7,916,811.31		
Cr.		\$	c.
By cash on current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	52,946.21		
By cash on deposit with banks in Hong- kong, Shanghai, and Singapore	647,683.98		
By cash invested in mortgages, debentures and other securities in Hong- kong, Shanghai, and Singapore	2,431,174.43		
By amount invested in London, viz.:— Deposited in banks	£60,000 0 0		
Invested in sterling secu- rities	243,147 10 5		
Invested in rupee paper	8,450 0 0		
(Market value at date)	£317,597 10 5		
	3,464,700.23		
By amount invested in Melbourne, viz.:— Deposited in banks	£ 2,000 0 0		
Invested in sterling secu- rities	15,793 3 6		
(Market value at date)	£17,793 3 6		
	194,107.36		
By amount invested in Yokohama, viz.:— Deposited in banks	Yen 1,000.00		
Japanese securities held to conform with insurance law passed in 1903	Yen 2,000.00		
	216,018.18		
By amount at debit of branches and agencies	7,0135.00		
By bills receivable	61,257.01		
By sundry debtors	100,403.22		
	\$7,916,811.31		

HONGKONG STEAM WATER- BOAT CO., LD.

At the meeting of the proprietors of this concern, held on the 22nd inst., there were present Mr. Chau Siu Ki and Mr. Francisco Tse Yat, consulting committee; Mr. J. W. Kew, Manager, and Messrs. G. C. Moxon, W. S. Bailey, J. B. Paterson, E. S. Joseph, Kwan Fong Kuk, and Chiu Chung How, shareholders.

The MANAGER read the notice convening the meeting and the resolutions for the acquirement of Messrs. Lane & Crawford's kindred business, already extensively advertised.

Mr. CHAU SIU KI proposed that the resolutions be passed. Mr. G. C. MOXON seconded. Agreed unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members for their attendance and said that a confirmatory meeting would be held in due course, of which notice would be given in the papers.

It is notified that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the withdrawal of the Proclamation No. 6 of 1904, declaring Amoy to be a place or port at which an infectious or contagious disease prevails.

In our announcement concerning the promotion of a Bill for a new tramway up the Peak, we omitted to mention the well-known fact that the promoter is Mr. Alexander Findlay Smith. Mr. Smith is in England at present, engaged, we understand, on provisional arrangements for the construction of the tramway.

FRONTIER NOTES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

SAN ON, 21st September.

ECHOES OF THE WAR.

The sound of the Russo-Japanese war has echoed even to San On. Two old people living in Shek Ha Village, C.T., have recently been granted a sum of \$1,000 by the Russian Government as compensation for the loss of their son, who was killed up north in some manner whereby the Russian Government became liable. The identity of the parents had to be certified to by the local officials or headmen, and these gentry, it is said, managed to extort a large sum of money from the parents of deceased before they would sign the certificate of identity.

I have also heard that compensation has been given to two other people living in Sheung-shui, B.T., also for the loss of their son. In this case I understand the Police official there signed the document of identification, but, of course, without the "squeeze pidgin."

SPORT.

So far very few sportsmen have been seen in Chinese Territory this year. Perhaps the weather has been the deterrent cause. Certainly the weather has not been favourable for snipe shooting; there is also too much water in the fields. Some of the best snipe ground in San On is in the neighbourhood of Po Kak Hu, north of Sham Chun, but of course with the present unsatisfactory means of travelling this place must for the present remain outside the limit of local sportsmen. (Why doesn't the Hongkong Government hurry up with the Canton-Hongkong Railway?) I have often wondered why local sportsmen do not get up a deer hunt. There are two kinds of deer on the San On mountains—the musk deer and red deer.

In the cool dry winter months no sport could be more exhilarating. The pure mountain air and healthy exercise would do much to build one up after the heat. And then there is the scenery, which is magnificent. The writer has stood on the summits of Ng Tung Shan and Tai Mo Shan and been "monarch of all he surveyed," and there is no finer sight in South China than the view from these mountains.

ROADS.

When is the Hongkong Government going to complete the road from Tai-po to Sham Chun? The administration of the New Territory has been in British hands for nigh six years, and all the roads made equal a trifle over 20 statute miles, making the average of roads constructed about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles a year. The Tai-po road when completed to Sham Chun will be appreciated by many who have daily intercourse with Hongkong, as also would a few bridle paths connecting the principal valleys with the main road. The Chinese have had a Government forced upon them which from the first they resented, and which the majority still hate with the Chinese traditional hatred of all European interference; therefore it behoves the British Government to do all they can to win the admiration of the people by conferring as many benefits on them as is consistent with good government. The present roads are the most wretched on earth—far worse than in Chinese Territory—and the writer has had experience of both. Customs employees can enjoy a good gallop on their ponies on the Chinese roads, but find this impossible should they happen to cross the border to British Territory.

FARMING.

The rice throughout the whole of San On, both in British and Chinese territory, is splendid. Of course there are the poor land patches, but speaking generally it promises to be the best crop for some time past. I have often wondered why the Chinese have never sought to cultivate different species of paddy—a paddy, for instance, that could be grown on dry land to equal the present cultivated "wet" paddy. Of course there is a kind of "dry" paddy grown but the grain is not so suitable for food as the ordinary kind. I have read quite recently how in the southern states of America experiments had been conducted in the cultivation of several species of dry paddy, the crop results of which equalled the ordinary paddy both in quantity and quality. The British Government might conduct some such experiments in the

New Territory, because it is certain the Chinese Government will never trouble. If a satisfactory dry cultivation could be introduced it would certainly help to make the country less malarious and more suitable for both Chinese and Europeans.

It is often a matter of wonder to me how the Chinese manage to get such good crops as they do from land which receives such little nourishment in the way of manures. At the most, the land gets but a little—a very little lime or dried cattle manure yearly. There is no systematic manuring of the ground as at home. All European vegetables rapidly deteriorate when raised from stock grown on Chinese soil, unless the soil is plentifully manured.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. JOHN HARTLEY v. JAPAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SHANGHAI, September 14th.

SIR.—Many thanks for your kind and sympathetic "review" of my pamphlet "Boycotted by the Imperial Japanese Government" etc., containing the "Higgledy Piggledy" copies of letters, documents etc. I had the late Sir Harry Parkes' views regarding the meaning of the clause in the 1858—1866 treaty, "Class III" Prohibited Goods, Opium; I attempted wholesale importation of medically prepared powdered opium for use by the Japanese Govt. and all classes of the people during the Civil War and cholera in 1877 & 1878 as per article 9, 1866 Convention and by virtue of the "Most Favoured Nation Clause," after the Hollanders had been favoured, also other foreign firms. I am not surprised at being called a "mono-maniac" but still hope to obtain justice in British Courts and compensation from the Japanese, now Britain's most Valiant Ally, before I die, for boycotting, for many years, general merchandise, (not opium) into Japan in wholesale quantities, the genuine manufactures of Britain, America, Germany, and the British Dominions. The claim is a diplomatic one; such claims are slow of settlement in the Far East, unless the claimant has powerful influence behind him. I have still faith in British love of "Fair Play," and of all other foreign nationalities in the Far East. My motto is "Nil Desperandum"—Yours truly,

JOHN HARTLEY.

[Part of the above is evidently "writ sarkastik"; but we can forgive Mr. Hartley much, admiring his perennial hope and dogged defiance of despair. Had we sufficient influence, we would recommend Japan to be, not just, but generous.—Ed.]

HUMANITARIANISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 17th September.

SIR.—Now that the Government is introducing measures for the better conservation of wild birds and game in this Colony and the mainland, it would be useful if the legislative power placed some definite construction on the words. It is a matter of common knowledge that hundreds of such birds as finches, kingfishers, and magpies are slaughtered yearly under the guise of sport, and as these feathered songsters do not come under the category of game, their slaughter should be made a punishable offence. The precautions against the trapping and sale of birds during the close season by Chinese bird dealers is also another measure which cannot be passed a moment too soon. The Ordinance is one the provisions of which our S.P.C.A. should lose no time in thoroughly investigating in order to prevent further abuses in shooting.—Yours, etc.,

PARTRIDGE.

[This "Partridge" is neither shy nor strong on the wing. The construction of "the words" in the present active Ordinances is definite enough, and any new measures are sure to be made quite clear as to meaning. We cannot accept our correspondent's definition of local "finches, kingfishers, and magpies" as "feathered songsters," and if he looks at the Ordinances again he will find that, in the close sea-

son, they do "come under the category of game." We believe, moreover, there are good reasons for refraining from excessive interference with the dealers in pet birds. There is a good deal of wanton cruelty with which local humanitarians may busy themselves, without straining the law too far. The conservation of wild birds is an object of the law, as of utility, not sentiment.]

THE NOWROJEE MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 16th September.

SIR.—Referring to the letter from Kobe, referring to the late D. Nowrojee, will you kindly draw the attention of your readers to the fact that a meeting had already been called a month ago, and that "The Dorabjee Nowrojee Fund," raised by the local Parsee community, resulted. Nearly fifteen hundred dollars have already been subscribed by the Parsees.—Yours, etc.,

DUTY.

THE CRICKET LEAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—As a cricket player, very much interested in the local sport, may I suggest that the League committee might cancel all the return matches, and allow all other cricket clubs to join in the competition?

Business men cannot spare time to practise except on Saturdays and Sundays. Saturdays are claimed for the matches, and on Sundays the ground is not available for practice.—Yours, etc.,

A PARSEE BAT.

BRITISH-TIBETAN TREATY.

The *Universal Gazette* gives what purports to be the full text of the new treaty between Tibet and Great Britain. The following translation was made for the *Shanghai Mercury*. It is evident that it must vary considerably from the correct English copy.

1.—The Tibetans now consent, according to Article I of the Tibet-Sikkim Convention (signed at Calcutta, 17th March, 1890, and ratified at London 1890), to re-erect a boundary tablet at the frontier of Tibet and Sikkim.

(Note:—Article I of the Tibet-Sikkim Convention reads:—The boundary of Sikkim and Tibet shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into Sikkim Teesta and its affluents, from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Machu and northwards into other rivers of Tibet. The line commences at Mount Gipmochi on the Bhutan frontier, and follows the above-mentioned water-parting to the point where it meets Nepal territory.)

2.—The Tibetans consent to open, in addition to Yatung, where the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs is, two towns, namely Gyantse and Kudung, and both British and Tibetan traders are allowed to reside there, freely. The inconvenient points in the commercial treaty of 1894 will be revised after due negotiations with the Tibetans, and then the three trade towns will be treated accordingly. When traders find any town on the route which may be developed for trade in future such town will be opened for trade after due negotiations have been made.

3.—The terms of the treaty of 1894 are not convenient; and the treaty must be revised, for which purpose the Tibetans will appoint commissioners to negotiate with Great Britain.

4.—The Customs Tariff has already been fixed and no additional tariff will be levied.

5.—From the frontier of India to the frontier of the three trade towns of Yatung, Gyantse and Kudung no likin station or other inland tax station will be allowed to be established on the route. As the roads leading to these trade towns are in a very bad condition, the Tibetans shall repair them at once. The Tibetans shall appoint duly qualified officials at the three trade towns and all the despatches of the British officials in the three trade towns shall be received by them for transmission to the Imperial Chinese Resident as well as other Chinese or Tibetan officials. In case further trade towns be opened the same system shall be established.

6.—As the Tibetans did not observe the former treaty, and fought against the British Mission to settle the boundary, the Tibetans shall pay an indemnity of £500,000 or Rupees 7,500,000.

in three yearly instalments, the first of which will be paid on the 1st of January, 1905, and the place of such payment will be appointed by British authorities or at Darjeeling.

7.—To enforce the above mentioned six articles both Indian and British troops will remain at Chumbi for three years, but when the new trade towns are duly opened and the indemnity paid in three years as arranged such garrison will be withdrawn, or the garrison will stay at Chumbi.

8.—At the strategical points between the Indian frontier to Gyantse and Interior Tibet or Chamdo, the Tibetans shall level all the forts.

9.—In future, unless the consent of Great Britain is first obtained, no one is allowed to mortgage or lease land in Tibet, or interfere with any of the affairs of Tibet and no powers shall be allowed to despatch any official to negotiate or interfere with Tibetan affairs and no one is allowed to interfere with road or railway making, or operations of mines, and no real estate nor businesses nor movable property shall be mortgaged or leased.

10.—This agreement has been signed and sealed between Colonel Younghusband, British Commissioner, and the Dalai Lama on the 2nd September, 1904, in Tibet. The text of this agreement has been made in English and Tibetan, and the English is to be taken as the authentic text.

IMPRESSIONS OF NORTH FORMOSA.

[SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION.]

The island of Formosa is but little known to residents of the China ports. Very few care to take a trip to a country where foreign hotel accommodation and the comforts of European life are supposed not to be found. Nevertheless I found a visit which I have just paid to the northern part of the island well worth any sacrifice of the lesser comforts—though, indeed, such a sacrifice really exists rather in the imagination than in reality.

Apart from its scenic beauties, Formosa derives particular interest from the fact that it is a Japanese colony, where the contrast between Japanese and Chinese methods of government may be viewed and some morals drawn. It would greatly benefit Chinese officials to spend a few weeks in the country.

From Amoy to Tamsui is a night's journey. In the early morning the Formosan hills come into view, and before midday the bar at the latter port is crossed, and anchor dropped in the harbour. I had heard many stories of the incivility of Japanese Customs officials, but must put them down as inventions, for at Tamsui, though very rigorous search was made (the Government not wishing to lose any revenue during the war), the greatest courtesy was shown. Indeed, during my whole stay in the island, I met with nothing but courtesy and even kindness from all classes. The official element, of course, preponderates, and it would doubtless be galling to some people to be constantly questioned as to their occupation, business, and age, were it not that the questions are put by the politest of smiling policemen, who could not give offence if they tried. Tourists in Japan have not found the same thing oppressive. The power of the law is, for good or for bad, over everything in the minutest details, and one can only say that as the people have chosen it, and it is not oppressive, it is for the best.

From Tamsui to Taihoku (Taipei of old days) is an hour's journey by rail, past the neatest of Japanese railway-stations and through very pretty country, the river flowing through a broad valley, on both sides of which green hills rise to a considerable height; while far away in the background are the mysterious hills of the savage country, with their rich covering of virgin forest.

Tamsui has not been reclaimed by the Japanese, and is still a dirty Chinese town, but Taihoku, the capital, is a revelation of what they can do. Though it is only 9 years since the occupation, the face of the city has been completely changed. In place of the dirty, unhealthy Chinese houses there has sprung up a typical Japanese city, with broad macadamised streets, neat, well-ventilated dwelling-houses and shops, and two or three really first-class official residences. The telephone is every-

where—even public calls are provided; and good drains, 3 feet deep, provide for the flushing of the city, which has its water-supply, ice-factory, and everything in fact, except electric railway. It is a marvel of up-to-dateness, and more so even of cleanliness, and is most refreshing after the evil sights and smells of a Chinese town. Relations with the conquered Chinese are, I believe, very satisfactory. The better element among them has settled down, only too happy to be preserved from a regime of 'squeeze' and oppression, while the treacherous country-people in the south have been, after years of guerilla warfare, subdued. On every side, as far as I could observe during my limited stay in the island, good relations seem to exist between the two peoples. There were no signs of any assumption of superiority on the part of the Japanese; on the contrary, they seem to live on terms of good-fellowship with their new subjects.

One cannot but carry away the impression that the future prosperity of Formosa is assured under Japanese rule; the resources of the island will probably be better developed, and trade relations will be on a surer footing than under the Chinese, while the Formosans themselves will become civilised in a shorter space of time.

RICE TRADE AND MACAO.

In the new commercial treaty between Portugal and China now under negotiation at Peking the following proposals are made by Portugal:—

1.—There being many Chinese residents in Macao the rice grown there is not enough to supply them, and China shall consent to export 500,000 shih of rice annually to Macao so as to supply the wants of the place.

2.—The Macao railway shall be further extended.

Both Lu Hai-hwang and Sheng Kung-pao, the Chinese Treaty Revision Commissioners, expressed their opinion that China may consent to the export of rice to Macao to the extent of two or three hundred thousand shih with Customs pass attached, but no extension of the railway should be allowed. Yuan Shih-kai, however, wired on the 22nd August that the three hundred thousand shih of rice should be the maximum amount of rice to be allowed to be exported from China to Macao, and in any case no increase should be allowed, and the rice should only be allowed to be exported from the province of Kwangtung, and from none of the other provinces, and China shall retain the right of stopping such exportation in case of famine prevailing, and according to the suggestion of Sir Robert E. Bradon a fixed term of years should be prearranged to the agreement.—*Eastern Times.*

DEATH OF AN AMERICAN ADMIRAL.

On the 17th instant General E. S. Bragg, United States Consul-General, received news of the death of Rear-Admiral Henry C. Taylor, U.S. Navy, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, an appointment he had held for only two years. Admiral Taylor died at Ontario, Canada. He commanded the *Alliance* on the Asiatic Station in 1891, when he was sent by the Commander-in-Chief to the Caroline Islands to safeguard American interests. In 1903 he was appointed President of the Naval War College, and in 1896 took command of the battleship *Indiana*. He commanded the convoy of fifteen ships which escorted General Shafter's army from Tampa to Santiago, and for his "eminent and conspicuous conduct in battle," in the action with the Spanish fleet, off Santiago de Cuba, on July 3rd, 1898, was advanced five numbers in rank. He was commissioned a Rear-Admiral in 1901, and his administration after his appointment, in 1902, as Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, was marked by many reforms, which grew out of his conception of the "military efficiency of the fleet." As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the flag at the U.S. Consulate, as well as those of all American firms, and ships in the harbour, were hung at half-mast.

AN ERRING GUIDE.

The title of "Berol's Guide to Shanghai in particular and China in general" would have been more accurately descriptive if the last half dozen words had been omitted. As a guide to China in general it is a pretentious humbug. The "places of interest" at Hongkong, for instance, apparently consist only of the Peak, which affords a "splendid view" (note the singular number), a few streets and public buildings, some Chinese villages (no hint as to where they are or how to reach them), and Kowloon, a "foreign settlement with a splendid Bund." Places in China, even Peking, are dismissed with a few lines, and the author certainly fails to keep his promise to tell the traveller "how to get from one place to another, the distance to be covered, by what means, at what cost, and what is to be seen when he arrives there." If the book had been offered on sale to the public as a reliable guide, we should have felt obliged to regard it as a fraud. We see, however, that it is "presented by the Hotel des Colonies Co., Ltd., Shanghai," and have no doubt that it will admirably serve two purposes, as an advertisement for an excellent hotel, and as a souvenir and remembrance for travellers who have visited it. We are quite willing to admit that as a guide to Shanghai it is also very useful. Its usefulness would not have been impaired by omitting the high-falutin preface of six page length, or the interpolated history of the opium war, or numerous other little bits that have no concern with the writer's immediate business. The statement that a "dishevelled, uncombed queue and an unshaven head" signifies that a parent has died within the last three months may persuade globe-trotters into the belief that some Chinese have more parents than they ought to have. Mr. Berol on page 22 expresses annoyance that vendors of incense should force their wares "into our hands in the most pertinent manner." And is it true that "silks and laces are cheaper at Shanghai than common dress materials at home"? Finally, if the visitor finds "Shanghai Society a gilded bubble," how is he going to "scratch the thin layer of tinsel," and of what, in a bubble, does "the material below" consist? We have no idea what the business of Mr. William Berol of Shanghai may be, but that his métier is not literary work is evident. On one thing we may congratulate him. His "guide" includes a selection of remarkably good photographs.

POLICE RECREATION CLUB.

OPENING OF A BOWLING GREEN
AT TSIMSHATSUI.

With the advent of the Civil Service Recreation Club has come a reawakening in the Police Force in regard to athletics. It is interesting to recall that a Police cricket team was the pioneer Civil team to play at Happy Valley, and that the Police Sports used to be one of the main athletic events in Hongkong. But for several years a sort of lethargy appears to have come over the Force, and, excepting tennis, nothing in the way of physical recreation has been followed up. This condition of things is evidently to be allowed to prevail no longer. Last season several members of the Police Force made very good appearances in the C.S.C.C. with the result that they are organising a team of their own this year and have secured a pitch as well as a tennis ground at Happy Valley beside the football field. At Tsimshatsui Station also a bowling green and quoiting pitch have been laid out, and these were formally opened on the 17th instant by Mr. F. J. Badeley, the Captain Superintendent of Police. The green is in front of the station. It has been taken up and dressed, with turf got from the New Territory, under the supervision of Inspector A. C. Langley of Tsimshatsui. At the opening ceremony there was quite a large number present, including many ladies, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. Mr. Badeley, who was accompanied by Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Deputy Superintendent of Police, opened the green by rolling a jack down each pitch. Sides were then picked as follows:—
C.S.P.'s Team—Chief Inspector Baker, Inspector Cuthbert, Inspector Langley, Inspector

Kerr, Acting Inspector Cameron, Sergt. Grant, and P. C. 123 Oulliford.

D.S.P.'s Team—Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, Inspector Ford, Inspector Withers, Sergt. Clarke, Sergt. Clyde, P.C. 15 Parker, and P.C. 180 Gulliford.

Mr. Badeley's team won easily. On the first green his four scored 21 against their opponents' 10, and on the second 21—11. Greens were then changed, and his ends were again victorious with 21—14 and 21—15 respectively; that is to say, the C.S.P.'s team won by a total of 84 to 40.

Between the games tea and refreshments were served, and at the end of the last game Inspector Hanson on behalf of the Recreation Club thanked Mr. Badeley and Mr. Hallifax for their presence, and said he hoped that would not be the last time they would appear on the ground.

Mr. Badeley thanked the Club for their invitation and said it had been a great pleasure to him to be present. He had thoroughly enjoyed the games, and he thought Mr. Hallifax's team would be able to make a shape if they took some little practice. (Laughter.) When the time came he would have much pleasure to come back and give them their revenge. He was pleased to see the interest which was being taken in sport and the Club. If playing at bowls was any criterion of what their intentions were at cricket they should go into the Cricket League and win. On the completion of the Recreation Ground at Happy Valley, he added, he would have much pleasure in opening it in the same manner. (Applause.)

P.C.'s Routledge and Davis acted as umpires in the bowling games. There were no matches at quoits, but several practice games were played, and some good talent made itself evident; but for most players the 6½ lbs. quoits and the 21 yards pitch made the sport rather strenuous. In a climate like this an 18 yards throw is quite enough.

H.K.C.C. ANNUAL MEETING.

The Hongkong Cricket Club on the 20th inst. held their annual meeting at the City Hall. Mr. E. W. Mitchell, the resident of the Club, presided; and there were also present Major A. A. Chichester, and Messrs. F. Maitland, R. Hancock, A. Wilson, R.N., A. Mackenzie, J. T. Dixon, and P. W. Goldring (members of the committee), Mr. A. G. Ward (secretary), and 25 other members.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, you have all had copies of the annual report and accounts, and with your permission I will take them as read. You will see we have a credit balance of over \$4,000 as against \$2,400 this time last year, but we must not lose sight of the fact that over \$900 of this year's balance was made out of the Cricket Club Dance, a most ably run and enjoyable entertainment; and the Club have to thank Mr. Sercombe Smith and his colleagues who worked so hard on the special committee which took charge of the arrangements. Another special committee, the New Pavilion Scheme Committee, consisting of H. E. B. Hunter (chairman), J. T. Dixon, T. S. Smith, E. A. Ram, R. K. Leigh, F. Maitland, R. Hancock, and P. W. Goldring (hon. secretary), have also earned the hearty thanks of the Club for the time and attention given to the consideration and ways and means by which we could erect a new pavilion. The scheme they presented, with a few trifling amendments, was adopted at an extraordinary meeting of the members, held on the 12th February last. You will be pleased to see in the report that teams from Singapore and Shanghai will be visiting us in November, and I am sure the Colony will give them as hearty a welcome as our teams have always received when visiting the sister Colony to the south or the Great Republic to the north of us. Sir Paul Chater, who will be remembered by the older members as a prominent cricketer in the seventies and early eighties, has very kindly consented to give a clock for the new Pavilion. The old clock, a relic of the dark ages I think, should be placed in the City Hall Museum. Mr. Ward, as you are no doubt aware, has resigned the secretaryship of

the Club, as he found he could not give the necessary time to the work. The past year has, of course, been an unusually busy one, and from what I myself have seen our secretary has been very hard pressed at times to get the work done. Although he ceases to be our secretary I hope the members will elect him on the new committee, as the experience he has gained during the past 2½ years will make him a most valuable member of the Cricket Club Committee. Mr. Lowe has kindly agreed to take up the post vacated by Mr. Ward, and I think we may congratulate ourselves on gaining his services. If any member has any questions I shall be pleased to answer them before adopting the report and accounts.

Mr. A. O. BROWN said he would like to know why the Army and Navy were excluded from "A" team.

The CHAIRMAN said that they were asked by Mr. Asger not to send in too strong a team against the Cricket League. They therefore knocked off some of the Civilian names, and also the Army and Navy. It was thought best to exclude them, as there were some very strong players in the Services.

Mr. E. A. BONNER said he would like to mention that the receipts from racquets were only \$2,000, while the expenditure was \$3,000. The bar, also, was run at an absolute loss, the prices charged for drinks being the same as at the Club. The outstanding accounts amounted to \$140; could not this be collected? There had not been many refreshment chits since May. Surely they could get some of it in?

Mr. A. G. WARD said that the Chairman had asked him to reply. The racquets expenditure was unusual. It was chiefly brought about by their having to pay for rents for the coolies, which did not occur before, this item being \$303. They had no right to expect a continuance of this deficit. There had been a very heavy expenditure for repairs.

A Voice: What about the bar?

Mr. WARD, continuing, said that the charges were less even than at the Club, while the turnover was small in comparison. They could not expect to make much profit. If the outstanding accounts were in they would be just about square in this respect. They would not get the bar to pay unless they raised the price of drinks, or unless the members drank more—the monthly receipts were only about \$10. Ah Kong had been very glad to get rid of the bar, as he could not make anything out of it. Practically all of the outstanding \$140 was due by members who had joined last month, so it was reasonable to expect that they could get it all in. Other outstanding accounts were by naval men; they were not able, as they were up North; but they ought to be all right. Regarding the tournament entrance fees, it certainly was disgraceful. When the shroff called for the money he was, in some cases, constantly told to call again next day.

Dr. ATKINSON suggested that the club should be run on a cash basis, instead of signing chits, the same as the Civil Service Cricket Club, where it had been found a success.

Mr. LAMBERT said he would like to know if the bar account included the present stock.

The CHAIRMAN: That is \$16.

Dr. ATKINSON proposed that all accounts at the bar, and also tiffin, be paid for in cash; and that tournament entrance fees be paid by the members before the drawings.

Mr. CHADWICK KEW thought that if this were approved there should be a sub-committee to look after the bar, so as to have a check on it.

The CHAIRMAN said that in any case the boys' wages ate up the profits of the bar.

Mr. P. W. Goldring seconded Dr. Atkinson's motion.

Mr. C. G. GRACE suggested that some arrangement might be made, similar to that of the Amateur Dramatic Club, whereby little books with slips representing drinks could be purchased.

The CHAIRMAN thought that they had better leave this matter to the incoming committee with these recommendations.

The CHAIRMAN moved, Mr. E. J. GRIST seconded, and it was carried that the report and accounts be adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said: You will have noticed that the Colonial Government has given the Club a licence at a nominal rent per annum to take in the pathway to the north of the Cricket

Ground, the Government reserving the right at any time, by giving the Club one year's notice, of resuming the ground, which we should have to return in the state it now is. Widening our ground, especially from the north to south, will be a great boon, and I do not think the cost of filling in and annexing the land need bother us financially; it is estimated to cost \$2,000. I therefore beg to propose the following resolution:—That the Cricket Club accept with thanks the offer made by the Government to allow the Club to take the pathway to the north of the ground into the present Cricket Ground under the conditions set forth by the Government.

Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH proposed that Mr. E. W. Mitchell be re-elected president (Applause).

Mr. PEARCE seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. E. W. MITCHELL: I thank you very much for the honour you have done me in electing me your president.

The incoming committee was elected by ballot as follows:—Mr. R. Hancock, Major A. A. Chichester, Messrs. J. T. Dixon, P. W. Goldring, F. Maitland, A. G. Ward, A. Wilson, R.N., and F. B. Deacon.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Cricket Ground would be open for play on the 1st October, and the first match, first XI. v. All Comers, would be played on the following Saturday.

Mr. A. O. BROWN proposed that the Army and Navy be not excluded from "A" team; but that a list of the strong players in the Army and Navy be made, and these men, alone, be excluded.

Mr. A. G. WARD seconded.

Messrs. A. MACKENZIE and P. W. GOLDRING thought that this matter had better be left in the hands of the new committee, and this was agreed to.

Dr. ATKINSON asked if anything was settled regarding the Shanghai and Singapore teams coming down?

The CHAIRMAN replied that nothing had been decided. They might get up a subscription dance, but the Ladies' Benevolent Club were giving a dance about that time.

The meeting here terminated.

THE REPORT.

The report is as follows:—

The Treasurer's cash account shows a balance to the credit of the Club of \$4,018.67 on "General" account and \$7,274.00 on "New Pavilion" account. The latter will be increased by \$3,250 when all the debenture-holders have taken up their holdings.

The club sent a team up to Shanghai in October last which defeated the home XI. by an innings and 23 runs. The thanks of the Club are due to the Shanghai community for the generous hospitality extended to our representatives during their visit.

The club played fifteen cricket matches against the navy, garrison, etc., of which nine were won, three lost, and three drawn. There were also played eight other matches (such as "Public Schools and Universities v. The Rest," etc.).

Mr. W. C. D. Turner heads the batting averages with 56.31, and Mr. C. R. S. Cooper is first in bowling with an average of 10.30 for 26 wickets.

The following scores of 100 and over were made:—Mr. W. C. D. Turner, 198, 115 (not out), and 101; Lieut. W. F. Lumsden, R.A., 186 (against Shanghai); Mr. R. Hancock, 139; and Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, 101.

In October last the Hongkong Cricket League was formed and did much to stimulate local cricket. Eight clubs joined and the H.K.C.C. was represented by the "Reserve" team, from which seventeen of the more prominent players of the club and all Naval and Army members were excluded. After making a bad start the "Reserve" team improved considerably and eventually took fourth place in the competition. At the close of the cricket season a fairly strong Club XI. met XV. selected players of the League Clubs and won an interesting game by 31 runs.

The old pavilion was demolished, and in accordance with the resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on February 12th, the building of the new pavilion was

commenced in April last. The latter is now rapidly approaching completion.

The Government has granted the club a licence to take in the pathway on the north side of the Cricket Ground, and this matter will be brought forward at the annual general meeting.

The invitations extended to the Singapore and Shanghai Cricket Clubs to send teams here for an Interport Cricket week have been accepted and the first match is provisionally fixed for November 11th.

The annual lawn tennis match against the L.S.C. was played on April 20th and resulted in a win for the Cricket Club by 81 games to 77.

The annual lawn tennis tournament was played during April and May. The championship was again won by Mr. H. Hancock. The "A" class singles handicap was won by Mr. A. Humphreys and the "B" class singles handicap by Mr. R. Manning. Messrs H. and R. Hancock won the doubles handicap, and the Hon. J. M. Atkinson and Mr. Sercombe-Smith were the winners of the professional pairs.

The annual racquets tournament was played in April. The championship was again won by Mr. H. Hancock, who also won the singles handicap and, with his brother, Mr. R. Hancock, the doubles handicap.

The thanks of the club are due to the officers of H.M. Navy and Army who so kindly lent their bands; to Mr. P. W. Goldring for making out the cricket averages, and to Mr. A. R. Lowe for auditing the accounts.

Lieut. Rimington, S.F., and Lieut. Solfleet, R.N., resigned their places on your committee on leaving the colony, and Major Chichester and Mr. A. Wilson, R.N., were elected in their stead. Mr. H. Arthur has also left the colony, but his place has not been filled.

Mr. A. G. Ward retires from the posts of secretary and treasurer at the end of this month, and Mr. A. R. Lowe has been appointed to succeed him.

During the year 63 new members joined the club. The total number of members is now 478, and there are 130 naval subscribers.

CRAIGENGOWER C.C. ANNUAL MEETING.

The members of this club on the 19th inst. held their annual meeting, Mr. W. D. Braidwood presiding, and a large number of members being present.

Mr. A. E. ASGER, hon. secretary, read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said he would take the report and accounts as read. Before adopting them if there were any questions he would answer them to the best of his ability.

Mr. J. P. JORDAN: I would like to know what money is due for outstanding subscriptions.

The CHAIRMAN: \$22.

Mr. J. P. JORDAN: I should like to move that this be in future shown in the accounts as in other clubs.

This was noted, but the motion was lost.

There being no other questions the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. HAROLD AUSTEN seconded, and it was carried.

The next business was the election of officers for the ensuing season.

Mr. J. P. JORDAN proposed, Mr. L. E. LAMMERT seconded, and it was carried that Mr. Braidwood be re-elected president (Applause.)

Mr. BRAIDWOOD: I have only to say that, as in the past, I shall be only too pleased to further the interests of the Club (Applause.)

Mr. A. E. ASGER proposed, Mr. J. PESTONJEE seconded, and it was carried that Mr. G. Rapp be re-elected hon. treasurer.

Mr. A. O. BRAUN proposed, Mr. AHMET seconded, and it was carried that Mr. A. E. ASGER be re-elected hon. secretary.

Mr. R. BARA proposed, Mr. L. A. ROSE seconded, and it was carried that Mr. L. A. Lammert be elected captain of the club for the ensuing season.

Mr. R. PESTONJEE proposed, Mr. J. PESTONJEE seconded, and it was carried that Mr. ASGER be elected vice-captain for the ensuing year.

Mr. A. O. BRAUN was also proposed for this post, but he withdrew in favour of Mr. A. E. ASGER.

Four additional members for the committee were elected by ballot. They were Messrs. R. BARA, A. O. BRAUN, J. L. STEWART and L. A. ROSE.

The CHAIRMAN: We have 53 really live members for the coming season. Those who have left the Club in most cases are members who have left the Colony.

Continuing, the Chairman said he would like to hear from the members what they thought about the matter of extending the Club pavilion.

A member estimated that this would cost some \$250.

The hon. treasurer estimated that next year's balance would be from \$156 to \$200.

It was decided to leave this matter for a sub-committee to report upon at a subsequent meeting. The following gentlemen were elected: Messrs. A. O. BRAUN, J. L. STEWART and HAROLD AUSTEN.

M. J. P. JORDAN said he had a few words to say about the bar (Laughter). He would like to propose that alcoholic drinks be allowed. Before, it was thought that the members might drink to excess, but they were not still school-boys (Laughter). A drop of spirit was very refreshing after a hard game of cricket. He proposed that liquor be sold.

Mr. L. A. ROSE seconded.

Liquor was contrary to one of the rules of the Club; and it was also found that the rules did not permit of an alteration without 14 days' notice.

The CHAIRMAN said that this subject had been thrashed out at a previous meeting, when it was resolved that they were just as well without liquor.

Mr. J. P. JORDAN gave notice that he intended to propose that Rule No. 21, dealing with this matter, be rescinded.

Returning to the subject of extending the pavilion, the CHAIRMAN said he was almost certain that the members of the Jockey Club—and they were rather powerful in a way—would be opposed to their extending towards the east. He thought it was better not to clash with any other sporting club.

Mr. A. O. BRAUN said there was another matter. They ought to do more for the members of the Club not in the first eleven. They might have a second team. Then, also, they might have a bowling green, like the Civil Service Club, and quoits, and in that way cater for more members. There seemed, just then, to be a craze for bowls, so in the future there might be a bowling tournament.

A member thought that it might divert the members from other games, and besides there was no green.

The CHAIRMAN said that a bowling green would have to be perfectly level, and they could not keep it so unless the ground was fenced in. They only had the ground on three days a week: the Hockey Club had it on the other days.

Mr. A. O. BRAUN mentioned that the Civil Service Club were in the same fix, as St. Joseph's College and the Portuguese also used that side of the ground.

Finally it was decided to appoint Mr. J. Toppin captain of a second eleven, to hunt up members; and the question of bowls and quoits was left over till next summer.

Mr. A. O. BRAUN promised a bat to the best average in the second eleven, that must play at least four matches (Applause).

Mr. HAROLD AUSTEN promised a ball to the best bowler (Renewed applause).

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE REPORT.

The report submitted to members was as follows:—

The committee have much pleasure in submitting their Report for the season 1903-04, which on the whole has been a successful one. Of the 14 League matches played, 8 were won, 4 lost, and 2 drawn. Friendly matches were also arranged for those not in the first eleven whenever the ground was available and a club could be got to play. Since the inauguration of the League more interest has been taken in cricket at the Happy Valley. Mr. A. O. BRAUN heads the batting average with 16.92 in 13 innings, thus scoring the first win for the Belilios Challenge Cup. Mr. E. R. HERTON took 29 wickets at 6-03 a wicket.

Lawn Tennis.—During the off season, great interest was taken in lawn tennis, and a tournament was held which resulted as follows:—

Singles (Scratch) won by Mr. F. Rapp.

Singles (Handicap) won by Mr. R. BARA.

Doubles (Handicap) won by Messrs. J. Uohigaki and J. L. Stuart.

On the 9th July last the members were at Home to their friends on the occasion of the distribution of prizes by Mrs. Braidwood, and a tennis match was played between Kowloon and Hongkong, resulting in a win for the former, who scored 48 games to the latter's 40.

Membership.—The roll of members now numbers 60.

Finance.—The total receipts amounted to \$1,158.00 and expenditure \$1,021.89, leaving a balance of \$136.11 in hand.

Gear.—The gear is in a fair condition, and the fresh supply is expected to arrive in time for the opening of the coming season.

The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., late of Hongkong, for offering to the Club another trophy in the form of a Silver Challenge Cup to be competed for on the same terms as the Shield presented by him in 1898, and which was won outright in the previous season (1902-03). The conditions are that the Cup is to be won twice successively or three times in all, before becoming the property of the player at the top of the batting average in the club matches.

Our thanks are also due to the President for kindly donating prizes for batting and bowling.

IMPORTS INTO THE PHILIPPINES.

One of the most striking features of the Philippine exhibit at the Louisiana purchase exposition, according to Government officials recently returned from St. Louis, is the display of imports into the archipelago. Covering one entire wall of the Philippine building are samples of Philippine imports, each article marked with the name of the country in which it was purchased. What strikes the average American as he looks over this vast display is the absence of the mark "United States." It would naturally be supposed since the United States controls the islands, that it would supply the markets of the archipelago, but that is not the case. On the contrary, the Americans supply but a small part of the imports of the Philippine Islands. The trade is almost completely controlled by foreign countries. One official, speaking of this condition, said: "It is astonishing to look over that exhibit and see shoes imported from England, cotton goods from India, flour from Russia and Australia, wines from Spain and France, and all sorts of hardware, manufactures of wood, oils, etc., coming into the islands from everywhere but the United States. It would not be striking but for the fact that all of these articles can be supplied by the United States, and on terms equally as attractive as those offered by foreign dealers. That exhibit certainly ought to appeal to the manufacturers of this country and show them what a vast opportunity is opened up to them if they will but grasp it."

This official, at a loss to understand why foreign products flooded the Philippine markets to the exclusion of those manufactured in this country, asked a Filipino businessman connected with the exhibit for an explanation. "Foreigners control our markets," was the reply, "because they study our wants and our preferences, and do their best to meet our demands. Instead of flooding us with a lot of circulars printed in a language most of us cannot read, they send representatives into our cities. They find out just what we want, the shape in which we want it, and the grades and qualities which are in demand. Instead of that, the American exporter, if he is interested at all, sends us a lot of stuff that he thinks we want, and sends it in shape that suits his ideas, and when we get the American and line them up with the goods from a foreign country the American product is rated as second class, and does not sell as readily as what we get from other sources. There is no reason why the United States should not dominate the Philippine markets; but your exporters have got to give us what we want, or they will never drive out foreign competition."

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Hongkong Rifle Association on the 17th inst. held a competition for spoons. There were 14 competitors. The light was poor for firing at 600 yards; it came on to rain. Here are the ten best cards, seven shots each from 200, 500 and 600 yards respectively:—

A. Watson: 33, 32, 32—97.
J. Parkes: 28, 34, 24—96.
Lieut. Foster, S.F.: 27, 30, 27—84 (12), 96.
Lieut. Napier, S.F.: 26, 28, 23—77 (18), 95.
J. Andrew: 31, 34, 29—94.
Lieut. C. H. Dumbell, S.F.: 30, 32, 28—90.
Sergt. Thornhill, R.E.: 33, 29, 25—87.—
S. Ins. Davies: 31, 28, 24—83.
J. C. Gow: 30, 31, 19—80 (3), 83.
Naive Sheik asum: 24, 26, 29—79 (3), 82.

KOWLOON BOWLING GREEN CLUB.

Here are results of the fourth round in the cotapetitions named:—

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

J. Macdonald beat J. W. Graham
J. M. Henderson " Wm. Ramsay
Wm. Deas " J. Kyles
T. W. Robertson " J. Parkes

PRESIDENT'S.

D. Gow beat T. W. Robertson
G. K. Haxton " J. M. Robson
G. Edwards " A. Ewing
J. Galt " Wm. Deas.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S.

Wm. Deas beat A. Kinross
J. Galt " D. Gow
J. M. Henderson " T. W. Robertson
A. Ewing to play J. Macdonald

The following is the draw in the semi-finals, to be over by the 27th instant.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

Wm. Deas v. J. Macdonald
J. M. Henderson v. T. W. Robertson

PRESIDENT'S.

J. Galt v. G. K. Haxton
G. Edwards v. D. Gow

VICE-PRESIDENT'S.

Wm. Deas v. J. Galt
J. M. Henderson v. J. Macdonald or A. Ewing.

CUP COMPETITION.

In the first round, to be finished October 31st, the contesting couples are G. Edwards v. J. Galt, J. Walker v. A. P. Goodwin, J. Ross v. A. Kinross, C. F. Focken v. A. Langley, J. C. Gow v. J. Ramsay, J. Macdonald v. G. T. Wilson, J. Clelland v. J. J. Sibbit, R. Lapsley v. R. H. Baxter, W. J. Russell v. J. W. Graham, A. Ewing v. Wm. Ramsay, D. Gow v. T. Petrie, T. W. Robertson v. A. Milroy, A. Stevenson v. G. K. Haxton, J. M. Robson v. J. Kyles, J. H. Henderson v. G. Smith, D. Harvey v. J. Murchie, Wm. Deas v. R. Whyte, T. Skinner v. J. Parkes, R. Hume v. G. Dodds, and N. G. Major v. Wm. Taylor.

"TAYLOR" BOWLS.

The first round for these prizes must also close on October 31st. The competitors are thus drawn:—J. Walker v. J. W. Graham, G. Edwards v. G. K. Haxton, J. Ramsay v. G. Smith, A. Ewing v. R. Lapsley, J. J. Sibbit v. C. F. Focken, W. J. Russell v. J. M. Robson, A. Stevenson v. R. Whyte, A. Langley v. A. Kinross, G. Dodds v. J. Parkes, J. M. Henderson v. D. Harvey, J. Kyles v. J. C. Gow, J. Galt v. Wm. Ramsay, N. G. Major v. R. Hume, D. Gow v. G. T. Wilson, J. Ross v. A. P. Goodwin, J. Clelland v. R. H. Baxter, Jas. Macdonald v. A. Milroy, Wm. Deas v. J. Murchie, T. Petrie v. T. W. Robertson, and T. Skinner v. Wm. Taylor.

While giving evidence in a civil case before Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith, a Chinese witness was asked in examination where his wife was. "In the country," he replied. Then he was asked if he knew a woman sitting in Court, and he answered that he did; she was his sister-in-law. The Judge asked the woman where her husband was, whereupon she pointed to the man in the witness-box and said he was her husband. The lying husband was sent to prison for 21 days for perjury.

V.R.C. AQUATIC SPORTS.

Victoria Recreation Club on the 17th inst. closed their aquatic season with an off day to the recent sports; and afterwards Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence gave away the prizes. In spite of the threatening weather the stand and lighter were filled with spectators, for whom a launch from Hongkong had been provided. Many ladies were present. The afternoon kept agreeable, though a little rain fell. The Club premises were brightly decked with bunting. H.E. the Governor came over to the sports in his launch shortly after the commencement, and only left just before the consolation race. Some amusement was caused by two of the committee, Messrs. E. M. Hazeland and Humphreys, accidentally falling into the water, when some staging gave way, during the obstacle race.

The band of the Sherwood Foresters was in attendance. The names of J. Witchell, C. Humphreys and C. J. Cooke stand out most prominently in this season's aquatics. The results of Saturday's sport were as follows:—

WATER POLO SHIELD FINAL.

The final of the Water Polo Shield competition was played off between "A" team V.R.C., and "B" team V.R.C.:—

"A" team:—J. Witchell (capt.), A. E. Alves, C. J. Cooke, H. C. Sayer, E. Humphreys, J. H. R. Hance, and C. E. A. Hance (goal).

"B" team:—N. H. Alves (capt.), A. V. Barros, A. J. V. Ribeiro, H. A. Lammert, C. M. S. Alves, Frank Jorge, and L. E. Lammert (goal).

Scoring was commenced by J. H. R. Hance, who took a pass from E. Humphreys, and put the ball into net neatly. As might have been expected, J. Witchell and N. H. Alves paired, and C. J. Cooke was marked by A. J. V. Ribeiro. After some give-and-take play Witchell sent in a long shot, but unfortunately hit the cross-bar. The ball, rebounding, was taken by H. C. Sayer, who hit the post. J. H. R. Hance passed to C. J. Cooke, who scored.

Half-time: "A," 1; "B," 0.

Cooke secured the ball at throw in, but lost it to Ribeiro, who was applauded. Barros passed to N. H. Alves, who knocked the ball on to Lammert; the latter shot high. After the goal throw "B" team continued strong. Lammert passed to A. E. Alves, who scored neatly. After this there was no further scoring. J. Witchell and N. H. Alves, this and last year's champions of the Colony (half-mile) respectively, opposed each other strongly; and H. C. Sayer made a few fruitless attempts to score.

Final score: "A," 2; "B," 1.

GREASY POLE.

First prize: presented by Mr. W. Farmer; 2nd: presented.

Seventeen competitors took part in this event. J. Witchell on his first attempt went out to the end of the pole and plucked the flag. The result was:—

J. Witchell 1
A. Loureiro 2

TUB RACE.

Two lengths. First prize: presented by Mr. H. Humphreys; 2nd: presented.

This was worked off in two heats. Firsts and seconds in each swam in the final. A. V. Barros came second to C. Humphreys in the first heat; and R. C. Witchell second to his brother in the other. One of the tubs was in a very leaky condition; G. B. Macdonald in the first heat, and C. Humphreys in the final were unfortunate enough to get it. The result of the contest was:—

J. Witchell 1
R. C. Witchell 2

TEAM RACE.

One length. Breast stroke. Prizes: presented. There were three teams as follows:—

J. Witchell (capt.), W. S. Bailey, J. H. R. Hance, C. Humphreys, E. Humphreys, J. M. Rosa Pereira, H. W. Sayer, H. S. Bevan, F. P. Long and J. E. Ellis.

N. H. Alves (capt.), T. Meek, A. Loureiro, B. Henderson, R. C. Witchell, J. Cronin, W. T. Andrews, C. F. Ozorio, C. B. Hayward and E. Abraham.

A. V. Barros (capt.), A. J. V. Ribeiro, H. C. Sayer, J. A. S. Alves, P. M. dos Remedios, W. G. Goggin, J. W. Bains, J. E. Ellis, G. B. Macdonald and E. E. Raymond.

A very interesting event. It was won by J. Witchell's team.

OBSTACLE RACE.

First prize: presented by Mr. W. S. Bailey; 2nd: presented.

The competitors dived from the lighter and swam over to the platform on the opposite side of the pond. They climbed up on to the platform and each took a potato, which, after the competitor had dived over a line and climbed on to some staging, was thrown into a bucket. This done, the men dived off the staging, wriggled through life buoys, made their way to the high-dive platform, took a dive, made their way through the lifebuoys again, and swam home. The result was:

C. J. Cooke 1
E. Humphreys 2
J. W. Bains 3

CONSOLATION RACE.

Two lengths. Result:—

A. J. V. Ribeiro 1
P. M. dos Remedios 2

PRIZE GIVING.

Mr. A. Chapman, chairman of the Club, in addressing Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence, said that the entries exceeded any previous year, and the competitions were very keen. The times were shorter than before, which showed that the men had been earnest in their training. They owed a deep debt of gratitude to the donors of the numerous lovely prizes (applause), and to the P. & O. Co. for the lighter, so kindly lent, and without which he did not know where they would have found accommodation for all the spectators (Applause). He hoped that the time was not far distant when they would have one event open to ladies only. The Club had elicited the sympathies of H.E. the Governor, who had not only become their president, but also an ordinary paying member (Applause). He hoped that H.E.'s example would be followed by others not yet members of the Club.

After the distribution of prizes Mr. Chapman, before calling for three cheers and a "tiger" for Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence, presented her with a handsome bouquet of flowers, saying it was the first time that she had visited the Club, but they hoped to see her there again (Applause).

Three cheers were afterwards given for the ladies of Hongkong; and three for the Hon. Secretary of the Club.

TRADE ITEMS.

The British steamer *Anerley*, one of Watts, Watts & Co.'s boats (1,887 tons, built in 1881), which went ashore at Fusan last month, was insured for £13,000 free of particular average.

Reports concerning the second rice crop show that it is excellent both in quality and quantity all over San On and the New Territory.

A proposal is on foot to start a Cricket and Recreation Club for Kowloon. Such an institution would be a boon to residents on the Kowloon side.

The requisite number of shares having been subscribed, it has been decided to float the Hotel Metropole Company (Shanghai) under the Hongkong Ordinances immediately.

Messrs. H. E. Reynell & Co. of Kobe are turning over their "Hirano" mineral water business to a public company with a capital of 125,000 yen, in twenty-five yen shares. The purchase price is 100,000 yen.

Transfers of members of the staff of the Shanghai branch of the Inspectorate-General of Customs have already been reported. Others are announced. Mr. Bowring has been transferred to Tientsin and Messrs. Lewder and Sandercock to Peking.

We are officially informed that the British Consul at Bangkok has notified the revocation of the regulation respecting plague and the revival of the regulations published under Government Notification 612 of 1903 substituting inspection at Peknam for quarantine at Kohphai.

Among local improvements at Wanchow may be noted, says Mr. Mortimore in his report for 1903, the establishment of a soap factory at Wanchow by a Chinese who obtained the necessary knowledge in Japan, and of a small factory at T'ai Chow, where towels are made after Japanese style from yarn manufactured by the Ningpo cotton mills. Owing to the comparative cheapness of both products they are obtaining a ready market.

It is interesting to note that the net value of the trade of Canton coming under the cognisance of the Foreign Customs was the largest on record, namely H.K. Tls. 110,559,826. This shows an increase of nearly 31 million taels on the returns for 1902, and in that year the trade showed an increase of 20 million taels as compared with the value in 1901. In short, the trade of Canton has more than doubled in value since 1900.

The total amount of new Philippine currency received up to the close of the month of August was P21,242,520.00. P2,254,000.50 additional left San Francisco by transport on Sept. 6th. The amount of Mexican currency shipped out of the Islands by commercial firms during the month of August was P10,000.00, the conditions of the local money market being such that during most of the month the sterling value of the Mexican dollar was greater there than that of the British dollar in Hongkong. The Banks in Manila are notifying the public that after 30th September next no local currency, either in the form of cheques or Spanish Filipino or Mexican silver, will be received for the credit of depositors' account.

It is said that Messrs. Geo. Fenwick and Co., Ltd., will hold an extraordinary meeting shortly to sanction the proposal to increase the capital of the company, which money, however, is not expected to be required before six to nine months have elapsed. It will be remembered that the company recently acquired a convenient site for their works at North Point, having the prospect of being obliged to vacate their present premises. Their water frontage will shortly be taken away by the new reclamation scheme. The area of their new lot is about 215,000 sq. ft., with a deep water frontage of 400 ft. in length. To reclaim this site, work now proceeding, it is estimated that it will cost the company about \$1 a square foot. It is hoped to dispose of the present premises for a good figure. The lease is held on a 999 years' tenure, and, being a marine lot, carries the right to the projected reclamation pertaining to the frontage. The directors of the company consider that it will be necessary to increase the capital to \$450,000, an increase of \$300,000.

HONGKONG.

Captain T. Austen, R.N.R., has resumed command of the steamer *Wingchai* after nine months' holiday in England.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks donations of \$100 from H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan, and of \$20 from Chan Sun.

"The record generally is a fairly satisfactory return, and evinces the continued prosperity of the port." That is how the *L. & C. Express* speaks of the Hongkong Blue Book for last year.

The increase of Crown rent in the New Territory is causing much discontent among farmers and squatters there, and considerable trouble is being experienced in the collection of it by the Government.

Bro. Joshua, director of St. Joseph's College left for Ceylon, on a holiday, by the M. M. s.s. *Ernest Simons*. He came here three years ago. Bro. Silvester takes over the directorship of the school.

Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.C.M.G., having resigned the appointment, it is notified that His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., has been pleased to accept the position of Honorary Colonel of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

From all parts of the New Territory comes word of plentiful shooting. Snipe, which were a disappointing supply last season, are to be found in abundance. Pigeon also are plentiful, while paddy-birds are more numerous than ever.

Mr. H. E. R. Hunter, the inspector of branches and agencies of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, left by the last French mail for Saigon on his inspecting tour.

At the P. W. D. offices recently Mr. L. C. Rees, Principal Land Surveyor, put up for sale by public auction Inland Lot No. 1,722, near Bowen Road; 99,260 sq. feet in area; annual rent, \$342. The upset price was \$2,978. Mr. A. H. Rennie was the only bidder. To him the lot was knocked down at an advance of \$20 on the upset price.

Among the property to be sold at the next Police auction at Tsimshatsui Station on Thursday, 22nd inst., are 32 Chinese boats.

Last week's plague return (four fatal cases) brings the year's total to 500, of which all but fifteen proved fatal. Yesterday there was no case to record. Other communicable diseases included a European case of diphtheria, and an imported Chinese case of smallpox.

About six p.m. on the 20th inst. the fire-bell rang out, denoting that a fire had broken out in the Central District. From all quarters the firemen hurried to No. 5 Station, only to find that there was no fire, but that H.E. the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, had taken this method of making himself acquainted with the Fire Brigade. There was a very quick turn-out, and a good muster of men, notwithstanding the fact that police patrols were just changing over. As the men arrived orders were given for several lengths of hose to be run out and a ladder hoisted against a house opposite the station—which manoeuvres were carried out expeditiously and well. His Excellency afterwards inspected the fire appliances. Earlier in the afternoon H.E. went through the Gaol and the Central Police Station.

Messrs. William Hunter and Adam Gibson, official veterinary surgeons, have submitted a further report on cattle disease in the Colony. The vets declare that "there exists in this part of the world a group of complex and obscure diseases hitherto grouped together under the heading 'Rinderpest.' The most significant diseases so far isolated are true Rinderpest, Haemorrhagic Septicæmia, Pyroplasmosis and Trypanosomiasis. Doubtless there exist a number of others." Only one animal was found to show symptoms of trypanosomiasis, but it is not necessary to be an expert to see that a cow with one of those things in its system is in an unhappy condition; and with chances of Haemorrhagic Septicæmia, in addition, the farmer's industry must be a risky one.

The *Yellow Dragon*, the little organ of Queen's College, Hongkong, opens the first number of its sixth volume with an article on "a visit to a country at war," and the writer has managed to squeeze plenty of thrills out of his trip to Japan. Here is one: "in the event of Russia's successfully repelling the assaults on Port Arthur, the bulk of the male population at Tokyo and other places had solemnly sworn to commit suicide by *hara kiri* on a wholesale scale." An interesting document records the success of Tse Tsok Kai, who, having finished his course at Queen's College, and obtained a Senior certificate at the Oxford Local Examinations, has, after competitive examination, at Canton, been appointed as an Imperial student to proceed to Europe or America for further study. The number contains an excellent selection of other matter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Customs authorities at Shanghai received a telegram on the 13th instant dated Chefoo, 13th September, as follows:—The str. *Nanchang* reports yesterday passing a mine with spikes Lat 39 deg. 08 min., Long. 120 deg. 55 min.; Iron Island bearing S. 18 E. true 12 miles.

Twenty-seven Chinese stowaways were brought back from Singapore on the s.s. *Pentakota*. Pending their being given into the custody of the Police they were locked up below decks, but as soon as the ship came to a stop twenty-three of their number made their escape through the porthole, a foot square, and got clear away. The four who remained did so because they were too bulky to get through the porthole.

An American who had recently married in the United States accepted a post in the Philippines. He brought with him sundry household goods, which were admitted free of Customs duty. Subsequently he sent to America for his wedding presents. These the Customs officers refused to admit into the Philippines duty free on the ground that they had not been in use, according to the regulations, "for more than one year prior to their importation." An appeal was lodged against this decision to tax the wedding presents, but the Court overruled the appeal and sustained the decision of the Customs Collector.

It was the *Yawata Maru*, according to the *P. & T. Times*, that was sunk at Newchwang, not the *Yatsu Maru*. It was impossible to beach her, as her propeller got entangled with the warship's moorings; she was a wooden vessel of about 700 tons. No lives were lost.

Shanghai was agitated last week over the prosecution of the proprietor of the Alhambra Hotel for keeping a disorderly house. It was alleged that the chief prosecutor was a man who had unsuccessfully sought to buy some of the Alhambra land. Schwartz, the landlord, was acquitted, but subsequently, on the strength of some police reports from Cairo and Calcutta, he was arrested on a charge of "being a menace to the community."

Mr. Johnson, Light-house keeper, has made a rough sketch of a fish "seen near Gap Rock on the 8th instant at 10 a.m." He describes the animal as yellow, with large, irregular, black splotches. As seen, twenty yards from the Rock, and about two feet below the surface, it appeared to be very flat in shape, the plane of the tail being parallel with the surface. It seemed to be about nine feet long, a foot broad across the shoulder, and had six side fins, about nine inches long. There was no dorsal fin. After loitering in one place for about a quarter of an hour, it swam away westwards. Careful as the observation seems to have been, we do not think naturalists need record a new species, or bathers fear sharks. We cannot help being struck, however, by the resemblance of the local visitor to *Polyodon spathula*, the "spoonbill sturgeon," referred to by naturalists as found in the Mississippi valley. That has four prominent side fins and the horizontal tail.

The following American telegram appearing in the Manila papers is given for what it may be worth, but we suspect it to be an intelligent anticipation of events rather than a statement of fact. It reads:—The situation growing out of the present war has been complicated by a proposal on the part of China to the various Powers interested to take over Manchuria. The proposal is made in the nature of a friendly overture to Russia and Japan as a solution which would bring about a cessation of the present strife. The proposal is regarded with great disfavour at St. Petersburg, where it is looked upon as an effort on the part of Japan to overreach Russian interests and bring about an attitude among the Powers unfavourable to Russia. China's move is generally regarded as a very shrewd piece of Japanese diplomacy, and to be one of the first steps by which Japan hopes to secure international guarantees of the integrity of China and a restoration to the latter Power of her northern province.

According to the *Universal Gazette*, by some mysterious means H.E. Tieh Liang, the Special High Commissioner of Investigation (and Collector of Funds), has during his fortnight's stay in Shanghai managed to collect no less a sum than Tls. 800,000. That paper is at a loss to say whence came this large sum to the High Commissioner's coffers, and hazards a guess that possibly these Tls. 800,000 were discovered lying loose in the Kiangnan Arsenal Paymaster's chest. This perhaps accounts for his Excellency's repeated visits to the Arsenal, where, encouraged by his find, he had hoped to "scrape up some more." At any rate, his Excellency is credited by the *Universal Gazette's* editor with having given stringent orders before starting for Soochow on the 13th instant that this money must not be touched or tampered with, but is to await his return to Shanghai. The mystery of the whole thing is that there has not been the slightest observable movement in the various yamens of Shanghai since H.E.'s arrival, whereby they could be suspected of collecting money to present the Special Commissioner, whence comes another shrewd guess that the aid of native banks has been enlisted by interested mandarins in the matter. At this rate Tieh Liang's mission has been so far more successful than that of his notorious predecessor Kang Yi, for the latter during his whole trip in 1899, beginning from Canton along the coast cities up to Tientsin, succeeded in getting only some twelve million taels, whereas without any visible efforts Tieh Liang has managed to collect nearly a million taels, ostensibly from only one mysterious source.

Further correspondence relating to Chinese labour in the Transvaal is officially published. In one place Lord Milner says to the Colonial Secretary: "It is, of course, needless to add that no permanent economic results are to be expected from one, or even several, shipments of this size." But I consider that the experiment has so far been sufficiently satisfactory to justify our making every effort to secure a steady stream of indentured labourers from the same source."

At the request of the International Postal Telegraph and Telephone Clerks' Christian Association, which has met half the cost, the Bible Society's agent at Shanghai has distributed a thousand Chinese Bibles and Testaments among postal clerks in China. With every book, which was done up and addressed separately, a letter was enclosed in English and Chinese, stating that "the post office clerks and postmen of Great Britain and Ireland feel towards you a warm and brotherly spirit. We would ask you to read this book, and we desire to point you through its pages to Jesus our Saviour." Already a number of most interesting letters have been received from some of the recipients of these books, including most appreciative acknowledgments from Confucian scholars and others. The majority of the clerks in the Imperial Post Office have gone through the Anglo-Chinese school, and are amongst the more intelligent men of China.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 14th September.—The following are the Tea statistics at Hankow to 14th September, compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 16th September, 1903:—

	1904.	1903.
HANKOW TEA.		
Settlements...	579,351	535,222
Shipments to Shanghai on		
Native account	13,739	22,141
Stock	14,834	17,964
Arrivals	607,924	575,327
KIUKIANG TEA.		
Settlements...	195,402	190,682
Shipments to Shanghai on		
Native account	15,059	13,017
Stock	3,114	793
Arrivals	213,575	204,492

The export of Tea from Hankow to 10th instant, as per Customs Returns stands thus:—

	Season 1904 x 1905.	Re-exports.
" 1903 x 1904...	42,893,740 lbs.	13,098,854 lbs.
" 1902 x 1903...	36,443,176	12,694,617
" 1901 x 1902...	36,262,217	13,397,123
Via Shanghai. Total 1904/5.		
To Great Britain...	6,333,835 lbs.	6,174,516 lbs.
" United States		
and Canada	3,808,552	4,116,106
" Continent	4,237,039	1,884,381
" Russia in Europe	107,190	13,210,167
" do. via North		19,507,480
" Shanghai	4,002,023	4,117,337

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons, in their Silk Circular dated Shanghai 14th September, state:—The home markets are firm. Gold Killing is quoted in London at 11-6½ and in Lyons at Fcs. 33.50. Raw Silk.—The market continues strong with a steady demand for Tactiles and Coarse Silk. Prices are unchanged. Yellow Silk.—Very little business has been done since the date of our last circular. Stocks in Shanghai are small. Hand Filatures.—Settlements this week include 300 B Crack Chops for America, whilst a fair business has also been done for that market in lower grade Filatures. We only hear of one transaction in new styles. Steam Filatures.—Low Grade Filatures continue in fairly good demand for the Continent. Waste.—The period under review has been dull and Pels 3/400 Curlies have changed hands at 85/86. Long Shantung Waste, which is of very low quality this season, has been dealt in to the extent of 500 Pels at Tls. 30. Kompoo Frisonets (whole Bales) Pels 300 have been sold at Tls. 32.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd Sept.—The prices are going downward, market being dull.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.35 to \$8.40 pc's.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.45 to 7.50 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.30 to 8.35 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.40 to 7.45 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.45 to 12.50 "
Shekloong "	10.50 to 10.55 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd Sept.—No demand having come forward, the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.25 to \$2.30
" Round, good quality	2.55 to 2.60
" Long	3.75 to 3.80
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.50 to 2.55
" Garden, " No. 1	3.50 to 3.55
" White,	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.15 to 4.20

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 22nd September, 1904.—We beg to continue our advices of the 8th September, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian.
Stocks as per circular of 8th September, 1904.	092	2,526	1,476	2,150
Sept. 1th Imports per Bengal	221	249	85	202
Sept. 13th " " G. Appear	—	53	19	—
Sept. 20th " " Lai Sang	—	103	2	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	913	2,948	1,582	2,352
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	194	602	117	86
Estimated Stocks this day	719	2,214	1,391	2,206

Bengal.—A heavy decline has taken place during the past fortnight and closing quotations are \$1,097½ for Patna and \$1,067½ for Benares.

Malwa.—Report from India to the effect that beneficial rains had fallen and increased shipments from Bombay have caused our market to become very weak. Quotations are:—

New	\$1,140/1,160
2 years old	\$1,180/1,200
3 " "	\$1,220/1,240
4.5 " "	\$1,280/1,300
Oldest	\$1,320

Persian.—Prices for good quality are 830/880.

HONGKONG, 22nd Sept.—Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1140	to \$1160 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1200	to \$1220 do.
Malwa Older	\$1280	to \$1300 do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1310	to \$1330 do.
Persian fine quality	\$900	to do.
Persian extra fine	\$925	to do.
Patna New	\$1097½	to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$ —	to do.
Benares New	\$1067½	to do.
Benares Old	\$1080	to do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their coal report of to-day's date, state that five steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 12,500 tons of Japan coal and 2,000 tons of Hongay. All has been sold. Since 9th September 31,570 tons of Japan Coal, and 1,500 tons of Hongay have arrived, all sold but 3,850 tons of Japan. The market is dull with small sales of Japanese.

Cardiff.....	\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian	\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miki Lump	\$10.0 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump.....	\$8.50 to 10 00 ex-ship, steady

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—The higher prices demanded have restricted any business. Stock about 300 bales.

Bombay.....	29.00 to 31.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon	31.00 to 33 50 "
and Dacca.....	"
Shanghai and Japanese.	3.20 to 33.00 "
Tunghow and Ningpo.	3.200 to 33.00 "

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, 14th September, says:—The mid-autumn Festival has somewhat interfered with business, but demand is, no doubt, greatly checked by excessive high prices now ruling. The neighbouring markets in the interior are dull and quiet, and the few sales noted below are comprised for the most part of purchases on Northern account on the basis of late sales. Locally there has been a trifling enquiry for special chops to meet urgent country orders, prices showing here and there an advance of 50 cents to \$2 per bale. Dealers have still a large quantity of yarn on hand, with which, together with the goods now arriving, they are meeting their late forward sales, and satisfying any casual demand that springs up at two to three dollars under market values. At the close business has come to a complete standstill owing to the difference in ideas of value between buyers and sellers, but the latter are weak and would concede a little to push business in a rising exchange.

Local Manufacture.—Local mill quotations are maintained as last advised, but they experience no demand.

Japanese Yarn.—The markets in Japan are excited owing chiefly to a speculative movement brought about by the scarcity of raw cotton, and previous sellers "to arrive" find themselves at a disadvantage, as the spinners are now asking a considerable advance. Sales reported are 100 bales No. 16s at \$132, and 300 bales No. 20s at \$134 to \$137—close strong.

Raw Cotton.—Notwithstanding an insignificant stock of 250 bales there is no enquiry whatever for Indian staple. The first importation of New China Cotton (about 60 bales) found ready buyers at \$34½. The yield is larger and quality cleaner than last year. Quotations are \$28 to \$32½ for India and \$32 to \$34½ for China Cotton.

Exchange on India has taken an upward turn and closes strong to-day at Rs. 187½ for T/T, and Rs. 137½ for Post. On Shanghai 72 and on Yokohama 90.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai for the fortnight ended the 9th instant, viz:—

Indian:—A continued brisk enquiry has been experienced and sales to the extent of 7,940 bales are reported, prices showing an advance of three Taels in No. 10s and two in No. 20s, the other counts remaining steady but firm and market closing strong. Unsold stock was estimated at 30,000 bales.

Japanese:—These threads are strong and advancing, and sales of 2,500 bales were effected at an increase of two Taels in value, market closing very strong in sympathy with home markets.

Local:—A fairly good business has been done in these spinnings, but at the close the market has come to a standstill consequent on the high prices of Cotton. Sales reported are 6,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 87 to 87½ for No. 10s, Tls. 88 to 88½ for No. 12s, Tls. 82 to 91 for No. 14s, and Tls. 91 to 91½ for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai 15th September, state:—Continuing our review of the Trade Report for Tientsin last year, we find the net value of the trade was only Hk. Tls. 76,840,791 as compared with Hk. Tls. 93,983,795 for 1902. "The decrease was chiefly due to the disturbed money market and to the fact that 1903 opened with rather heavy accumulated stocks imported in the previous year, necessitating, naturally, a certain amount of time before these could be worked off. Often the results of trade depend on the result of the harvest; last year the harvest was middling in Chihli and good in Honan and Shanghai." It will be interesting to see if the bumper crops of this year bear this statement out. "The net value of Foreign Imports amounted to Hk. Tls. 42,528,492 as against Hk. Tls. 55,938,591 in 1902. Cotton Goods gave a net total of Hk. Tls. 23,585,968, of which sum Hk. Tls. 7,202,537 represented the value imported direct. The business was not profitable either to the Foreign Importers or to the Native merchants, but possibly the banks have derived much interest from stocks on which they had made advances. The principal items of Import during 1903 compared with those of the preceding year are as follows:—

Article	1902.	1903
American Drills ... Pieces	748,325	470,418
" Sheetings ... "	2,298,653	1,012,243
English Grey Shirtings ... "	1,579,763	689,247
Handkerchiefs ... Dozen	62,635	23,039
Indian Cotton Yarn ... Piculs	267,380	218,271
English " " "	20,018	2,887
Japanese " " "	76,014	106,507

The value of imported Railway Plant and Materials totalled Hk. Tls. 3,312,418 and is likely to increase in the next few years and to form by far the most valuable item in our list of Imports, there being no signs of China's intention to make use of her own rich resources." The quantity imported in 1899 amounted to Hk. Tls. 8,626,720.

Piece Goods.—The market has continued very quiet throughout the interval, owing to the circumstances mentioned in our last, but at the same time it is strong and supplies are being eagerly sought for. A combined demand for Corea and Japan for the heavier makes of Shirtings has been the only lively feature, but buyers have had to apply, for the most part, to second hand holders to get what they required. There is little doubt but that these are wanted in connection with the military operations, and there are likewise brisk enquiries in the market for Woollen blankets and heavy cloth. Against these may be put, as an offset, urgent orders for iron roofing and such like building materials to prepare Winter quarters for the troops of the other side. Trade in its ordinary course has been very dull; Newchwang is still suffering from the obstructions in the surrounding country which prevent the large supplies that have gone up going into consumption, and which also have stopped produce coming down from the interior. Tientsin is most disappointing and is evidently drawing more and more of her supplies direct, while Hankow, our next largest outlet, is suffering from want of rain and impaired credit. Meanwhile money here is getting dearer and Exchange approaching upwards to the parity of silver. The home markets are full up with orders and Cotton, both spot and "futures," firm and advancing, the last quotation for Mid-American being 6.74d. and 7d. for Egyptian. Orders that have gone through in Manchester have been chiefly in specialities of Dyed and Printed goods for late delivery. The New York market is likewise strong, but a quiet forward business is still going on. The shipments to China up to the end of July this year amounted 91,978 packages, against 199,411 packages in 1903 and 278,054 packages in 1902 for the same period, so there is ample room for fresh supplies.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 9th September.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00	
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00	
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00	
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00	
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00	
Reported sales 5,000 bales.		

COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30	
7 lbs.	2.35 to 2.50	
8.4 lbs.	3.20 to 4.10	
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.50	
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd.	2.90 to 3.10	
58 to 60 "	3.20 to 3.75	
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50	
Fine 6.20 to 8.25		
Book-folds 5.50 to 8.20		
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.10	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.25 to 2.50	
7lbs. (32 ")	2.75 to 3.00	
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.75	
7lbs. (32 "), "	3.00 to 3.25	
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.20 to 4.00	
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.)	5.25 to 8.00	

FANCY COTTONS—		per yard
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. }	1.80 to 3.90	

Brocades—Dyed 0.13 to 0.14	
Damasks — to —	
Chintzes—Assorted 0.09 to 0.17	
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.23 to 0.45	
Velveteens—18 in. 0.21 to 0.27	

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk		per dozen
0.45 to 0.75		

WOOLLENS—		per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.70 to 2.50	
German 0.60 to 0.75		
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.00 to 3.50	

per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.80 to 9.50
Assorted 7.95 to 9.65	
Camlets—Assorted 12.50 to 33.00	
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } Assorted)	13.00 to 22.00
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.		per lb.
0.70 to 0.80		
Fine quality — to —		

METALS—		per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 4.05 to —		
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.05 to —	
Swedish Bar 4.10 to —		
Small Round Rod 4.50 to —		
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 6.20 to —		
Wire, 16/25 oz. 9.50 to —		
Wire Rope, Old 3.00 to —		

METALS—		per picul
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.30	to —
Australian	8.30	to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	39.50	to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.50	to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.50	to —
Composition Nails	61.00	to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	38.50	to —
Tin	80.00	to —
		per box.
Tin-Plates	7.40	to —
		per cwt. cases
Steel $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$	5.90	to —
		per picul
Quicksilver	152.00	to —
		per box
Window Glass	4.50	to —

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 23rd September, 1904	
Beans \$4 @ 5	
Borax \$10 @ 10½	
Camphor (China) \$115	
" (Formosa) \$120	
Cassia (First quality) \$22	
" (Second ") \$15	
" Oil \$160 @ 173	
Cloves \$20 @ 45	
Fennel Seed Oil \$320 @ 330	
Galangal \$18½	
Glue \$15½	
Grapes \$10 @ 16	
Ivory \$300 @ 700	
Kismis \$8 @ 12	
Olibanum \$5 @ 20	
Rosa Oil \$60 @ 170	
Saltpetre \$11	
Sandal wood \$28 @ 30	
" Oil \$250 @ 400	
Senna Leaves \$3 @ 6	
Sugar Candy \$10½ @ 12	
Vermilion \$80 @ 85	
Wax \$34 @ 39	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, September 17th, 1904.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Per picul.	
Cowhides, best selected Tls. 33.00	
Do. seconds 29.00	
Buffalo hides, best selected 19.50	
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour) ..	
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each) 8.70	
White China Grass (Wuchang and or Poochi) 12.00	
White China Grass (Sinshan and or Chayu) 11.00	
Green China Grass (Szechuen) 12.00	
Jute 5.00	
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow) ...	10.50
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchow and/or Macheng) 10.00	
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu) ...	—
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu) 10.50	
Animal Tallow 9.00	
Gallnuts (usual shape) 19.00	
Do. (Plum) do. 20.00	
Black Bristles 118.00	
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck) ...	20.50
" " " Wild Duck 21.50	
Turneric 3.10	
Sesamum Seed 4.29	
Sesamum Seed Oil 7.90	
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil 7.90	
Wood Oil, 7.80	
Tea Oil 8.60	

Per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, sailed on 20th September. For Marseilles:—65 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 15 cases silk piece goods, 27 packages human hair, 1,280 packages tea, 17 cases ylang ylang oil, 9 cases Manila hats, 17 cases sundries. For Lyons:—304 bales raw silk, 3 cases private effects. For St. Chamond:—25 bales raw silk. For London:—2 cases documents.

Per steamer *Gneisenau*, sailed on 14th Sept. For Colombo:—20 rolls matting. For Odessa:—300 cases cassia. For Naples:—10 cases essential oil, 4 cases curios, 4 cases chinaware, 1 roll matting, 1 bale waste silk. For Genoa:—256 bales raw silk, 100 cases cassia, 64 rolls matting, 24 bales canes, 2 cases sundries. For Venice:—100 cases cassia. For Antwerp:—125 bales split bamboo, 22 rolls matting, 7 cases chinaware, 5 cases preserves, 4 cases cigars. For Antwerp or Hamburg or London:—800 bales broken cassia, 115 cases bristles. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—20 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—90 rolls matting, 70 cases preserves, 50 cases ginger, 10 cases chinaware, 3 cases blackwoodware. For Rotter-

dam:—1 case cigars. For Bremen:—608 rolls matting, 232 cases preserves, 100 bales feathers, 4 cases rattanware. For Bremen and Hamburg:—280 bales feathers, 70 cases preserves, 25 cases ginger, 9 cases blackwoodware. For Hamburg:—400 cases cassia, 325 bales feathers, 179 boxes ginger, 85 rolls matting, 77 cases ginger, 33 cases blackwoodware, 30 cases China paper, 29 bales canes, 25 cases essential oil, 15 cases vermillion, 12 cases chinaware, 12 cases bristles 7 cases feathers, 2 cases cigars, 2 cases silk. For Copenhagen:—500 cases cassia, 100 bales feathers, 50 cases cassia, 26 cases ginger, 1 case tea, 1 case silk piece goods. For London:—100 rolls matting, 22 bundles cow hides.

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

SEPTEMBER 19TH, 1904. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Custom House from 10th September to 16th September, 1904:—

IMPORTS.

Goods.	QUANTITY
Cotton Raw, Indian pls. —	
" " Native " 6	
" Yarn " 745	
Shirtings, Grey pcs. 530	
T-Cloths " 1,980	
Shirtings, White " 1,414	
T. Red Shirtings " 356	
Drills " 15	
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades " 401	
" Dyed " 314	
Damasks " —	
Camlets " 162	
Lasting " 20	
Spanish Stripes yds. 776	
Lustres, Figured " —	
Lead, in pigs pls. 14	
Tin, in slabs " 56	
Iron, Nail rod " —	
Quicksilver pls. 8	
Iron, Old " 44	
Ironwire " 5	
Rice " 9,560	
Opium, Patna " —	
" Benares " 51	
" Persia " 23	
" Malwa " 2	
" Szechuan " —	
" Yunnan " —	
" Kiangsu " —	
Sesamum Seed " —	
Sapanwood " —	
Sandalwood " —	
Rattans " 12	
Wheat " 1,600	
Flour " 3,488	
Beancake " 49,349	
Beans and Peas " 17,665	
Bicho de Mar " 237	
Mats Tea pcs. 23,900	
Oil, Kerosine American gals. —	
" " Borneo in bulk ... " —	
" " Bumarh " —	
" " Sumatra " —	
" " Bulk " 151,955	
Coal tons. —	
Tobacco Leaf pls. 34	
Vermicelli " 603	

EXPORTS

Goods.	QUANTITY
Sugar, White pls. 299	
" Brown " 735	
" Candy " 823	
Hemp Bags pcs. 10,500	
" Sacking " 1,000	
Paper I Quality pls. 548	
" II " 180	
Tobacco, Prepared " 115	
Kittysols (umbrellas) pcs. 3,050	

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd September, 1904.—A sudden lull in the market has set in, and even Indo-Chinas and Sugars which have been so much to the fore for several months, have felt the general inactivity. The chief reasons appear to be a comparative tightness in the money market, owing to the demand by Chinese to settle accounts before the Festival of the Harvest moon, to-morrow; the approaching settlements; and possibly a slight reaction from the recent rapid rise in stocks. As, however, all our principal local companies are reported to be doing well it is only reasonable to presume that with the pass-

ing of these conditions the market will resume at least a portion of its previous activity.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small lots during the week at \$650, but close with more shares available at that rate. The London rate remains unchanged at £66. Nationals have been placed at \$39, and more shares are enquired for at that rate, and could possibly be placed at half point higher.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Further sales of Unions have to be recorded at \$580, but on the issue of the Company's Report for 1903 to 1904 which has been received by shareholders with great satisfaction, the rate hardened and at time of closing shares can be placed at \$590. Cantons, which have been in steady demand for sometime, without much business resulting, have been placed in isolated small lots at \$225 and \$230 closing in demand at \$237½. China Traders remain quiet with sales at \$61 and no further buyers over \$60. North Chinas have improved to Tls. 72½. Yangtszes remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been placed in small lots at \$330 closing steady at that rate. China Fires remain steady at \$87 at which sales have been negotiated, the market closing with buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have declined to \$29 with no buyers, or sales to report; shares could however be placed at \$28 but none seem to be available at that rate. Indo-Chinas have changed hands at \$126 and \$125 for cash and at equivalent rates forward, the market however has been comparatively a quiet one and not many shares have changed hands. The closing rate \$124 must be regarded as more or less nominal. China and Manilas have found small buyers at \$26 and close with sellers at \$26½. Douglases changed hands in the early part of the week at \$38 and \$39, but upon the publication of the Co.'s Report to June 30th, 1904, receded to \$34, at which rate the market closes with sellers. Star Ferries remain unchanged at \$41 and \$31 with no business but close with sellers. Shell Transports have been placed in fairly large lots at 24/-, 4/6 and 25/- closing with buyers at 24/6.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled quiet \$112 with sellers and little or no cash business. On time sales are reported at \$12½, \$118 and \$17 for December, and at \$124, \$122 and \$120 for March. Market closing with an inclination to buy at the lower forward rates. Luzons are on offer at \$3 with no sales or buyers.

MINING.—We have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa failed to maintain their position and gradually fell to \$227, after further sales at \$229, and later at \$228. At time of writings shares are procurable at \$227. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have found buyers at \$113 and close with further buyers at that rate. Farnhams have been dealt in locally at from Tls. 180 to Tls. 185 closing quiet at Tls. 183. Forward business has been put through at equivalent rates. New Amoy Docks remain weak with sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have receded to \$153 after sales at \$154. Kowloon Lands have found buyers at \$39 and later at \$40 closing with further buyers at the former rate. West Points unchanged and without business. Hotels have further advanced to \$136 and close with buyers at that rate after small sales. Humphreys' Estates have ruled steady at \$12.75 and \$12.80 with sales at those rates. At time of writing a few shares are on offer at \$12.75.

COTTON MILLS.—Nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have again been placed at \$31 and more shares are enquired for. Watsons, China Borneos, and China Providents have been placed at quotations. Steam Waterboats have risen to \$21 after a meeting at which it was decided to 'ake over Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.'s waterboat business. Watkins have advanced to \$9½ with sales.

MEMOS.—Douglas Steamship Co.'s ordinary yearly meeting on 28th inst., transfer books closed on the 19th. William Powell & Co.'s ordinary yearly meeting on 27th inst., transfer books closed on 22nd. Union Insurance Society ordinary yearly meeting on 20th October, transfer books close from 10th to 20th Oct.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$650, sellers L'don, £66.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$39, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$39, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$590, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$61, sales
North China	£5	Tls. 72½, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$140.
Canton	\$50	\$237½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$87, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$29, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$124.
China and Manila	\$50	\$26½, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$41, sellers
	\$5	\$31, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	24/6 buyers.
Do. pref. shares	£10	£8. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$212.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$6, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490.
Raubas	18 10d.	\$6½, sales & sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$227, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$113, sales & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$27½, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 133, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$153, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$61, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$136, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12.75, sellers
	\$2½	\$5.
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 113, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 30, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 100, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$31, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$11, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$9½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300.
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$21, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$22, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$37, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$180.
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sales & buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sales
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$12½.
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50.
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$150, sellers
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Steam Laundry Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$7, sellers
S. C. Morning Post	\$25	\$19½.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their Share Report dated Shanghai, 16th September, 1904, state:—There has been a good steady business done during the week under review, the principal feature of which is a further gradual rise in Indos, Farnham, Boyds remaining about equal rates. Our market is in a very healthy condition all round, but money is tightening and may effect prices later on. The T/T. rate on London to-day is 2/6½. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have been placed at \$645 and 650 ex 73 for cash during the interval, and there is one operation recorded at \$651½ October. The market closes firm. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Yangtsze Insurance shares have been sold to Hongkong at

\$142 cash. No other business under this heading. Shipping.—There has been a marked strengthening in Indo-Chinas since our last, and we have advanced from Tls. 87½ to 90 for September, closing with buyers. For October 88½, 89, 90 and 91, and for December 89, 89½, 90, 91 and 92 have been done, also closing with buyers. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. A good business has been done all the week in this stock, and shares have changed hands at from Tls. 178 to 187½ September delivery. A reaction set in, however, and at the close only Tls. 183½ can be obtained for spot cash. For all the month up to the end of the year a good business has been done and our closing rates for the time are for September Tls. 184, October 186, and for December Tls. 190, at which last rate shares can be obtained. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves have been negotiated at Tls. 162½ December, 166 March, but heavy buying has brought the cash rate to Tls. 164, while for December 170 and for March 172½ have been transacted, closing firm. Sugars.—Nothing reported. Mining.—There has been a reaction in Weihaiwei Golds, and shares have been placed all along from \$22 to 24 each, closing with buyers, while at the same rate for December shares are wanted. Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. shares have been sold during the week for Tls. 7½ bearer scrip. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 111 cash and Tls. 112 September del. Weihaiwei Lands are wanted at Tls. 12. Industrial.—Cottons, nothing reported. Shanghai Gas Co. have been placed at Tls. 98. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats have been very quiet, but business has been done at Tls. 315 September, and 327½ December, closing a little weak. Sumatras have changed hands at Tls. 68 each and 67 September. Shanghai Waterworks.—A single transaction is reported at Tls. 387½. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have buyers at \$31. Llewellyns have been placed at \$40. Watsons have been done at \$15. Centrals, new issue, have improved at \$8½. Astor House Hotels have changed hands at \$30. Hotel des Colonies have changed hands at Tls. 20. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Mutual Telephones have been placed at Tls. 63. Loans and Debentures.—A good deal of business has been done in debentures this week. Shanghai Land 6 per cent. at Tls. 95. Shanghai Gas 6 per cent. at Tls. 94. Astor House 8 per cent. at Tls. 140. Shanghai Municipal Debentures and Shanghai Waterworks Debentures are wanted at Tls. 95.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 23rd September.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	231½
Credits 4 months sight	235
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	187½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	4½
Credits, 60 days sight	4½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137½
Bank, on demand	137½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137½
Bank, on demand	137½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	90½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand—Pesos	90
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	5½ p.c. p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	110½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	6½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	
GOLD LEAF, 180 fine, per tael	
GAR SILVER, per oz.	

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—40/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (overland):—Tea 48 1/2 cents per lb. gross plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—

ARRIVALS.

18, Idomenous, British str., from Shanghai.
18, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18, Providence, Norwegian str., from Anping.
18, Trieste, Austrian str., from Singapore.
18, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
19, Australian, British str., from Sylsey.
19, Feiching, Chinese str., from Foochow.
19, Hander Kaulion, Brit. str., from P. Louis.
19, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
19, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
19, Loongmoon, German str., from Wuhu.
19, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
19, Sambia, German str., from Moji.
19, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
20, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
20, Hiansang, British str., from Swatow.
20, Itaura, British str., from Rangoon.
20, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
21, Melita, French str., from Tourane.
20, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
20, Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
20, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.
20, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
20, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
20, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
21, Avala, British str., from New York.
21, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
21, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
21, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
21, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
21, Hellas, German str., from Hamburg.
21, Hohenstein, German str., from Saigon.
21, Siam, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Tremont, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
22, Eliat, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
22, Kansu, British str., from Tientsin.
22, Karin, Swedish str., from Canton.

September—

DEPARTURES.

18, Anchenarden, British str., for Moji.
18, Callao, U.S. gunboat, for Canton.
18, Ohio, British str., for Yokohama.
18, Rano, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
19, Albenga, German str., for Shanghai.
19, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
19, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
19, Karin, Swedish str., for Canton.
19, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
19, Pleiades, American str., for Tacoma.
19, Stantor, British str., for Batavia.
19, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
20, Achilles, British str., for Shanghai.
20, C. Dieterichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
20, Cyrus, British str., for Rangoon.
20, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
20, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
20, Fooshing, British str., for Chefoo.
20, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
20, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
20, Idomenous, British str., for London.
20, Itaura, British str., for Yokohama.
20, Jacob Dieterichsen, Ger. str., for Pakhoi.
20, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
20, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
20, Phuyen, French str., for Swatow.
20, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
20, Rane, British str., for Yokohama.
20, Taming, British str., for Manila.
20, Themis, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
21, Waihora, British str., for Amoy.
21, Belgian King, British str., for Yokohama.
21, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
21, Cranley, British str., for Durban.
21, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
21, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
21, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
21, Macduff, British str., for India.
21, Nanyang, German str., for Kobe.
21, Orange, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
21, Providence, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
21, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.

21, Sambia, German str., for Hamburg.
21, Tungshing, British str., for Canton.
21, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
21, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
22, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
22, Glenesk, Brit. str., for Christmas Island.
22, Gregory Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
22, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
22, Pentakota, British str., for Amoy.
22, San Francisco, U.S. cruiser, for Manila.
22, Trieste, Austrian str., for Kobe.
22, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Iloilo, Mr. Reid.
Per *Meefoo*, from Shanghai, Capt. G. Mitchell.
Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Rosenberg, Lieut. Luca, Lieut. Dobbys, Lieut. Banett, Mr. Jas. Heny.
Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Ranerleigh, Mrs. Anita De Santos, Messrs. J. Fuller, J. Heinen, R. Hay and Guy Mager.
Per *Taiwan*, from Shanghai, &c., Capt. Light.
Per *Pitsanulok*, from Bangkok, Messrs. von Dassel and Lowrenzen.
Per *Australian*, from Sydney, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. P. Bleure, Mrs. M. Hempstead, Miss Stevens, Major Peters, Messrs. A. H. Bryant, E. Kings'ou, Y. Shea, Y. Geerz, S. M. Vanclain, Robertson and two children, Armstrong; for Shanghai, Mr. P. A. McBullock; for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Siddle, Mrs. L. Cane, Miss Neild, Miss Siddle, Miss N. Siddle, Master R. Dewiddie, Messrs. J. Power, W. E. Catley and Wilshire.
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Per *Kansu*, from Tientsin, &c., Mr. Richard son and Miss Hancock.

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